



PRIORY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

‘We honour God through our actions’

Introduction

Worship in a Catholic School is central to its character and fundamental to promoting a sound basis for Christianity to flourish. It is the responsibility of each member of staff to provide quality opportunities for worship so that all our children can participate effectively. It is important to realise that our community is made up of children from committed Catholic homes, nominal Catholic homes, from families which belong to other Christian Churches or from families adhering to no particular religious denomination. This is important to consider when planning any activities throughout school life.

Rationale

Priory is a Catholic community of faith with the main task of providing our children with appreciation of the religious and spiritual dimensions of life. In a Catholic school religious collective worship must –

- a) contribute to the children’s spiritual development and realisation of God’s place in their lives;
- b) be child-centred to be effective;
- c) transmit Christian culture;
- d) contribute to social awareness within themselves and as part of a community.

Aims

To emphasise the love of God while presenting children with the beliefs of the Catholic faith in a manner suitable to their ages;
To ensure those beliefs are related to the child’s experience of life;
To provide the environment and stimulus for reflection, prayer and worship;
To provide varying opportunities to worship.

This is achieved through the provision of opportunities on a non-exclusive basis for all children to worship through –

Curriculum Religious education based on *Here I am*

The religious life of the school – prayers both formal and informal; hymn practices, school, class and parish Masses; visits by the Parish priest, participation in home, school and parish events; whole school involvement and support when children are preparing for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

The following show the weekly Act of Worship Timetable at Priory as well as the annual Liturgical celebrations.

PRIORY WEEKLY ACT OF WORSHIP TIMETABLE

2.30 -2.50		11.00-11.20		9.05 – 9.25
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Act of Worship based on Church Year Led by Deputy Headteacher	Prayer & Praise led by Music Co-ordinator (Mrs Hill) and RE Co-ordinator (Mr Ayles)	Act of Worship on an agreed theme linked to SEAL programme/PSHE led by the following teachers on a 4 week cycle 1. Mrs Joyce 2 Mrs Tickell 3. Mr G-Brown 4. MrsThomas	Act of Worship Led by RE co based on the current Here I Am topic	Celebrations Act of Worship led by the Headteacher

PRIORY SCHOOL LITURGIES (revised each year)

Reception & Year 1	Mothering Sunday (in school)
Year 2	Advent/Christmas. Last day of Term (in Church)
Year 3	Easter. Last day of term. (in church)
Year 4	Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the month of May.
Year 5	Harvest
Year 6	Leavers' Act of Worship (in Church)

OBJECTIVES

Participation

Children will be encouraged to participate actively in all forms of collective worship. This can be achieved in a variety of ways – individually, as a group or whole school.

Personal and Social time takes place as and when the need arises and Circle time opportunities are given to all.

When possible and feasible, spokespersons for various charities or parish groups are used e.g. CAFOD NSPCC and the Good Shepherd Project

Hymn practices –known in our school as ‘Prayer and Praise’ = whole school activity to revise known hymns or learn new ones connected with the liturgical season, sacramental preparation or theme followed in *Here I Am*.

Display – each class after staff discussion at the beginning of each term will present a whole school display of art / written work often using one of the themes presented by *Here I am* or a biblical theme.

The Personal and Social Education permeates all topics and the children discuss and celebrate values regarded as central and important by the community, e.g. caring, compassion, responsibility, courage, truth, self-sacrifice, freedom, equality. The opposite of these values will also be explored e.g. negatives such as cruelty, injustice or hate. The celebration would aim to –

- Explore ideas of community
- Celebrate affairs of the school
- Point pupils to the world as it might be
- Explore ideas of good and evil
- Develop personal growth

These sessions may provide an opportunity for reflection and response which will include prayer. They may also be tied in with our SEAL work each half term.

Parish Participation by our school e.g. Bishop Christopher has visited and all children have participated fully in parish events; we try to attend Mass once a month and on Holy Days of Obligation. First Holy Communion sessions take place 4 times a year in our school hall, as well as the Celebration on the day. (see Parish links doc for details)

Worship From World Faiths

Some acts of worship may contain not only Christian material – provided that, taken as a whole, the individual act of worship reflects the tradition of our Christian belief. Therefore material from other faiths, where appropriate, may be included in our Christian worship. The sort of material which might be used would be reading and prayers from various traditions which could be suitably introduced at festivals and events that already cross faith boundaries, e.g. Harvest, Prayers for World Peace, or in those themes or values which are common ground to all or several faiths, e.g. love, justice, compassion, self-control, peace, gentleness or hope.

Fund-raising

The children participate, when appropriate, by contributing to the support of a needy cause. Awareness of these charities is often promoted in whole school prayer services and assemblies. We contribute most often to Catholic charities e.g. CAFOD, Catholic Children’s Society

Formal Prayers

These prayers are said together, individually, silently or aloud

Sign of the Cross

Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Morning and evening prayer

Hail Mary

Grace before meals

They may be led by the teacher or children.

Prayer is simply making contact with God who loves us i.e. talking to God. The children are taught to speak to God using formal prayers and informal prayers. This allows the children, especially the youngest to talk to God at their own level. We ask the children to listen to God when he speaks to us in the scriptures. Often a few seconds of silence are encouraged when the whole school meet for a Prayer Service. Simple prayer is promoted at such times when we ask our children to think about and pray for the sick, suffering, those special to us or any topical subject. They are invited to contribute suggestions or intentions.

WITHDRAWAL RIGHTS OF PARENTS

Statutorily, parents have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Should this right be exercised, the Head Teacher would invite parents who have concerns to come and discuss the matter as, being a small school, it is difficult to find someone to supervise a child when Collective Worship is in progress, especially as all staff are expected to attend.

CONCLUSION

Worship is not something separate from the rest of our school life. It reflects the way in which our pupils contribute and take responsibility for standards of behaviour, shared values, the quality of the school environment and also affirms the worth of the individual.

We aim that the children in our care begin to realise that God is a source of infinite love and that he is active in the world and in our lives. Also to realise that by praying together as a community, God's love is reflected in all of us and most importantly, in school life which will provide the atmosphere and opportunity to promote dialogue with him. Opportunities will be presented to all our children to be involved in school prayer life in various forms to further their spiritual growth.

Signed Head teacher

Signed Chair of Governors

Last Revised:

LITURGY PLANNING SHEET

Theme

Class/Year Group/Key Stage

<i>GATHERING</i>

<i>THE WORD</i>

ACTION

MISSION

RESOURCES

List of resources for staff and pupils to use