



Collective Worship

'Maricourt seeks to provide and sustain a living Catholic Community which is rooted in Christian Values and where growth and knowledge, respect, love and fellowship are shared by all'

March 2018

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Mission Statement

Maricourt seeks to provide a living Catholic community which is rooted in Christian values and where growth and knowledge, respect love and fellowship are shared by all

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This will normally take place at the start of the school day and can be either act of worship for all pupils in a year group, or separate acts of worship in form groups led by the Form Tutor. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

Collective Worship

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other faith backgrounds.
- Those from no faith background.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of *God*
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To come mindfully into *God's* presence.
- To be still and quiet.

Principles

All acts of worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to *God*
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences in order to take part in the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help personalise the experience
- be short and appropriately paced
- be simple.

Organisation

The Daily Act of Worship will take place between 8.55 - 9.00a.m. in form time each morning unless there is a Year Assembly, when it will take place within the first or last ten minutes of the Assembly.

The Planning , Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating in a token way.

The chaplain will provide training on collective worship for all new staff within the first two weeks of the beginning of the academic year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

All Pastoral Leaders will have a copy of 'Praying Each Day of the Year' (Nicholas Hutchinson) for each Form tutor.

Daily resources for collective worship will be provided by the chaplain. These will include resources for the liturgical seasons - Advent, Lent, Easter - and special feast days. These will also be supported by the Headteacher, Pastoral Leaders, Curriculum Leader or Deputy Curriculum Leader in R.E.

We are in the privileged position of having the Blessed Sacrament in the school chapel and in the Convent chapel, which is accessible to the Sixth Form.

Collective Worship

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The Eucharist will be celebrated during the Autumn term to mark the reception of GCSE and 'A' Level Certificates. When this is not possible a Eucharistic service (where permission is given by the local ordinary) or a para-liturgy will be celebrated instead. Parents, students and teachers will be invited.

Arrangements will be made with local priests to celebrate the Eucharist with RE classes throughout the year where possible, with a special focus on Year 7 and Year 10.

The academic year will climax for each year group with a para-liturgy, celebrating their work and achievements throughout the academic year and giving thanks to God.

Each year there will be a retreat for Year 9 pupils of 2 days to enable them to take time out with God and each other.

Retreats will be arranged where possible for other year groups.

End of Term Liturgies

Autumn term will culminate with a Christmas Carol Service for each Year group

The Spring term will culminate with a service focusing on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The final service of the year will be a non-Eucharistic service for staff to allow all staff to take full part.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by a core group (Chaplain, Headteacher & Senior Pastoral Staff) and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.