

St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Our Mission Statement

"We are God's work of art."

- Help each other
- Be happy
- Follow the light of Jesus
- Include everybody
- Everybody do their best in every way
- Be friends with everyone
- Be responsible for your own actions
- Be Respectful
- Work to the best of your abilities
- Parents, teachers and children support each other.

Chair of Governors	Anne-Marie Pennington
Headteacher	Mairead O'Neill Dowell
Date adopted: September 2025	Review date: September 2027

What is Collective Worship?

“Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power”
(Circular1/94)

“Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God”

“Distinctive to a Catholic school should be its attitude as a community to prayer and worship....as a spontaneous response to life and to learning.

Pupils and staff should find ways of articulating and making their own response to God both in private prayer and in public worship.” (Towards a Civilisation of Love)

The worship which takes place in St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary School is Collective Worship.

This 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 Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school’s overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Catholic in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Worship in our school will be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common.

Why Collective Worship?

Collective Worship in our school provides opportunities for learners and staff to come together to worship God.

- To reflect on spiritual and moral beliefs
- To reflect on personal belief
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To mark us as special
- To come to terms with
- To give worth to
- To wonder at
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To contemplate something of the Mystery of God
- To take time out
- To develop a community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values.

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The RE Coordinator has a responsibility for drawing up this policy for Collective Worship after consulting the Head Teacher and Governing Body.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.

Class teachers are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship each day.

Learners must have the opportunity to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship

Parents and other adults can be invited to participate in Collective Worship

Teachers, Chaplains, children and visitors can lead Collective Worship.

Where Collective Worship takes place

- In the classroom
- outside
- In the school hall

Acts of Collective Worship should take place in school, but the Governing Body have the discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

When Collective Worship takes place

Collective Worship need not take place at the beginning of the school day, but at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful experience for all participants. Collective Worship in our school takes place in classes, year groups, Key Stages and as a whole school.

Length of Collective Worship In general Collective Worship should last one minute for each year of a

child's life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by learners, staff and visitors.
- Can be offered for a class, year group, Key Stage or whole school.
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or short addresses
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the learners.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.
- Collective Worship will be planned, recorded and evaluated by each class teacher.

Planning

- Through consultation with appropriate parties and references to the school's aims and policies.
- With reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Staff may use Ten Ten (subscription service) to support in the planning and resources for Collective Worship.

Recording

- To keep note of the themes, leaders, learning groups and resources
- Through displays, collections of learner's contributions, prayers and reflection

Evaluation

- Regularly by staff and learners
- With reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible