



# THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*With God as our Guide we will value each other and work together to achieve our best*

## RE Collective Worship Policy

Policy compiled by:	Juliette Kelly, Leader of RE
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Body
Approved by Governing Body:	May 2015
Review Date:	May 2016

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

### Our Mission Statement

*The Marist School is a place of teaching and learning:*

- *Where we promote the Christian growth of children in a caring environment.*
- *Where everyone is valued not just for what they do or give, but for who they are, a traveller on the way to Christ.*
- *Where children are encouraged and stimulated to achieve their full potential spiritually, academically and socially; where talents and successes are shared and celebrated.*
- *Where all staff work and grow together as a team, giving of their best and supporting each other.*
- *Where all members of the community are made to feel welcome and encouraged to take an active part in the life of the school.*

### PREAMBLE

At the Marist, we, the pupils, parents, staff and governors, worship together as a school community. The staff, working together as a team, is an example to the children in the way that they live, work, play and pray together.

### 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 can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.

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

### **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 Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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 develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes by worshiping in a way that fosters openness, honesty, trust, sensitivity to others and equal opportunity.
- To develop reverence and respect through experiences of Liturgy, Scripture and Prayer.
- To introduce the aspects of Catholic Liturgy such as symbol, gestures and actions.
- To celebrate together by keeping the feasts and seasons of the Liturgical Year, with particular emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- To build upon the home/school/parish link by including members of the Home and Parish families whenever possible in our Acts of Collective Worship.

Appendix 1 shows our timetable for collective worship, Mass and Liturgy.

### **THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship.
- 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 or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- ❖ **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- ❖ **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (music, drama, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

## **RECORDING**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of leaders, pupil groupings and visiting speakers
- In the shared area where worship outlines, materials and resources used are collated
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

## **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.

## **EUCHARIST**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight the beginning and end of a school term and Holy Days of Obligation when they fall within the school calendar i.e. Ash Wednesday or the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Key events within the life of our pupils are also commemorated with a school Mass e.g Year 6 leavers and Year 3 making their First Holy Communion.

## **REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

This policy was reviewed following consultation with all staff and governors. It will be monitored annually for effectiveness and updated in the light of experience.

Policy reviewed and updated: May 2015

Date of next review: May 2016

*Juliette Kelly*  
**RE Leader**

## Appendix 1

### Collective Worship Timetable

#### Collective Worship

Day	Type of worship	Worship leader
Monday	Whole school collective worship	Headteacher
Tuesday	KS1 and EY Celebration collective worship	KS1 / EY teachers
	KS2 Celebration collective worship	KS2 teachers
Wednesday	KS1 and EY Hymn Singing	Music Leader
	KS2 Hymn Singing	Music Leader
Thursday	Class based worship	Class teachers
Friday	Whole school Class led worship (one per class) or Whole school collective worship	All classes and all teachers (on a rota basis)

Visiting groups or speakers eg SCAT team, Cabrini, Mission Together or CAFOD to be invited during the course of the year when appropriate.

#### **Mass and Liturgy**

*Whole school Masses:*

##### **Autumn Term.**

Beginning of term

Harvest

All Saints – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (if falls in school time)

Christmas

##### **Spring Term.**

Beginning of term

Ash Wednesday Liturgy (if falls in school time)

Easter

##### **Summer Term.**

Beginning of term

Marian Liturgy or Mass - 24<sup>th</sup> May (Lady

Help of Christians)

St Peter and St Paul – 29<sup>th</sup> June (if falls in school time)

Walk of Witness- celebrating Y3 First Holy Communion

Leavers' Mass (For Y6 and their families)

End of Year Mass

#### *Mass within the Parish*

All classes attend and participate within the Friday Mass at least twice a year in the Parish Church of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Where possible, classes will attend the Friday Parish Mass which falls on or as close to the feast day of their Class Saint:

**Autumn Term.**

St Matthew – 21<sup>st</sup>  
September (3M)  
St Theresa - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct (4T)  
St Francis - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (2F)  
St Cecilia–22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (5C)  
St Andrew - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (2A)

**Spring Term.**

St David - 1<sup>st</sup> March (RD)  
St Anne- Friday before  
Mother’s Day (RA)  
St Patrick - 17<sup>th</sup> March (4P)  
St Joseph - 19<sup>th</sup> March  
(6/5J)

**Summer Term.**

St Bernadette - 16<sup>th</sup> April  
(3B)  
St George (1G) 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
St Thomas Moore– 22<sup>nd</sup>  
June (6T)  
St Paul – 29<sup>th</sup> June (1P)

*Parish links*

Staff and pupils support the parish in their First Holy Communion Masses (Summer term).