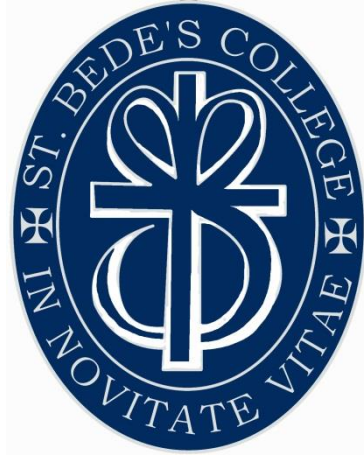


St Bede's Catholic College



Collective Worship Policy

1. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the aim of St Bede's Catholic College to create an ethos in which the College community has the opportunity to grow together in their faith. We seek to offer an education in the practice of the faith, in prayer and worship, which puts God first.

2. THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic college 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 a relationship with God, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are intrinsically woven into our school community. We provide liturgical events which include weekly Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies such as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Lent.

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF OUR COLLEGE

In this policy the term Collective Worship refers to the legal requirement for a daily act of worship. Daily Collective Worship is a statutory requirement under the 1944 Education Act. 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. The daily act of worship is not intended to include the delivery of the liturgical cycle of worship. Worship is more than a legal requirement; it is an integral part of college life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Acts of collective worship is not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Formation. We recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

DAILY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Every day we make it our priority to give the pupils in our charge the opportunity to reflect and pray at the start of the day. We recognise that this is something pupils have a right to and a need of and that it is incumbent on us to make this possible. Staff will start briefing and full staff meetings with prayer. All full college based INSET days will begin with a liturgy. Worship and the religious life of the college is a shared responsibility of all those involved within the community of St Bede's Catholic College.

PRINCIPLES OF ALL LITURGICAL WORSHIP

All Liturgical Acts of Worship in St Bede's Catholic College will:

- give glory and honour to God.
- be a quality activity, planned and organised, and suitable to the age, social and religious development of the pupils.
- give pupils a positive liturgical experience. We will achieve this by making the liturgy relevant to the lives of the pupils and involve them through words, music, drama, silence, reflection, listening and sharing.
- be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can lead, organize and lead worship.

3. **THE AIM OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP** is to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate something of the mystery of God.
 - develop a sense of belonging and a sense of community.
 - develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself.
 - reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
 - explore their beliefs.
 - respond to and celebrate life.
 - experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
 - develop a common ethos and shared values.
 - enrich religious experience.
 - grow in liturgical understanding and development.
 - reinforce positive attitudes.
 - participate fully.
 - take time out for personal reflection and appreciation.
 - respond to the wider and global community.
 - reflect upon our own individual faith journeys.
 - to foster and nurture relationships
 - reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
 - lead and develop the worship offered.
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- Daily Collective Worship will be in the form of prayer. Prayer can be described as the 'raising of one's heart and mind to God or the requesting of good things from God' (Stroth Damascene).
 - Daily Collective Worship will take place every morning via form tutors, year group or whole college assemblies.

Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship

- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere in the classroom.
- The main focus of the prayer will be related to the Liturgical calendar.
- The Lay Chaplain will email all tutors the prayer themes for the following week. This will be said daily in tutor groups and will begin by making the sign of the Cross, followed by a reflection, a prayer (Our Father, Hail Mary or Glory Be).
- Resources and guidance are also available from the lay chaplain and the RF department.

Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship via Form Tutor

- Daily prayer is the responsibility of Form Tutors except when whole college and House/Year group assemblies are taking place.
- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to ensure that the legal requirement of a daily act of worship is given to their pupils each morning.
- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere in the classroom. This may be achieved by:
 - Beginning and ending prayers by saying and making the Sign of the Cross.
 - Encouraging pupils to be still and to bow their heads.
 - The tutor may lead prayer; however, it is encouraged for pupils to lead the prayer at the start of each day.
- Prayer may take the form of words or silence.

4. Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship via Assemblies

- Each House/Year Group will have one assembly per fortnight
- Year Group assemblies will usually be led by House/Year Leaders.
- Upper and Lower College Assemblies will take place as scheduled.
- Joint Sixth Form Assemblies will take place as scheduled.
- Prayer is to be included as an integral part of every assembly.
- It is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere. This may be achieved by:
 - Beginning and ending prayers by saying and making the Sign of the Cross.
 - Encouraging pupils to be still and bow their heads.
- It is the responsibility of every member of staff present in the assembly to support the importance of prayer by helping to create a conducive atmosphere.

This may be achieved by, for example:

- directing pupils into the assembly in an orderly and quiet manner.
- supervising pupils during the assembly.

Prayer may take the form of words or silence.

IDENTIFYING AND MEETING NEEDS

Daily Collective Worship Support Materials:

- Weekly Staff Bulletin with college daily prayer.
- Lenten, Advent, and other Diocesan materials.
- Staff prayer book
- Tutor weekly prayers and staff prayers issued by the Lay Chaplain weekly.
- The Chaplaincy and RF team have various resources, for example, books on assemblies and festivals.

Staff Professional Development Needs

Staff Professional Development needs on an individual, team or whole college basis will be identified through, for example:

- Discussions with individuals, line managers and especially the House/Year Leader.
- Performance management.
- Regular in-service surveys.
- Discussions at Tutor Group and RF faculty meetings.
- All College based Staff INSET Days will start with a liturgy and all Full Staff Meetings and briefings will incorporate a prayer/reflection; these will also indirectly form useful exemplars.
- At least one INSET day will focus on Catholic Life/Ethos CPD where all staff are invited to reflect upon the important contribution they make to the Catholic life of the College.

5. THE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Head of Faculty, in collaboration with the Lay Chaplain, is responsible for writing and reviewing the policy. Consultation will involve members of the RF team which consists of the College Chaplain, a Governor, Teaching and Support Staff and SLT.

Roles and Responsibilities

Whilst remembering worship is a shared responsibility of all those in our community, the following have specific responsibility:

- Governors and Principal: to ensure the Collective Worship Policy is implemented and practised daily.
- Vice Principal: To oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy.
- RF team/Lay Chaplain: To support, review, monitor and evaluate the practice of Collective Worship within college. Collective worship will be well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading collective worship, including pupils.
- House/Year Leader: To deliver year group assemblies, to assist at whole college assemblies and to monitor the delivery of Collective Worship within their House/Year group.
- Form Tutors: To lead and deliver Collective Worship when assemblies are not taking place. To assist at year and other college assemblies and Liturgies.

Access to the Policy

The policy is open to all, including Governors, teaching and support staff, pupils, parents, visitors, and the wider community.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This policy is written and is to be practiced in the context of our College Aims and Mission Statement and Religious Education Policies.

6. MONITORING, REVIEWING AND EVALUATION

At least once a year the college's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils.

Evaluation will also take place in Term 6 with a view to revising aims and setting revised or new objectives for the following college year.

Updated September 2021
To be reviewed July 2022