Collective Worship Policy

Love, Learn and Shine Together with Jesus.

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St Matthew's R.C. Primary School:
Collective Worship Policy

"Celebrations of various kinds which help the children to understand some of the elements of liturgy (such as greeting, silence, community praise especially in song) have a great part to play in their liturgical formation and in preparing them for the liturgical life of the Church."

SMSC Statement

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development will be developed through the teaching of English:

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by:

- Writing will be developed across the whole curriculum, including R.E. and P.S.H.E. which give a wealth of opportunities for writing.
- A sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning.
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences and use this as a stimulus for writing.

Pupils' moral development is shown by:

- Pupils will have opportunities to investigate and discuss ideas, offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues. This area will also be developed through Philosophy (P4C).

Pupils' social development is shown by their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

- Willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively. Pupils are encouraged to read their work aloud in class and to present their work in a variety of ways – presentations and project work.

Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage. Cross-curricular links are made during History, R.E. and P.S.H.E.
- Willingness to participate in, and respond to, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities. This point links particularly well with Philosophy, as pupils are given this range as a starting point for discussion and enquiry. Pupils are then better equipped to start writing, as they have learnt so much through discussion.
- Interest in exploring, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

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This policy is intended to ensure:
It 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 Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Aims:
Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain
- Worship in our school is central to our mission statement and the Catholic education we provide.
- It forms a central part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Planning and Delivery:
A daily collective worship is held in each classroom three times per week. This lasts approximately one minute for each year of the children's lives.
A whole school collective worship takes place every Monday morning in the school hall as part of assemble. Each Key Stage also has a group collective worship weekly.
We take opportunities to vary the location for collective worship, such as in the open and in Church.
We ensure collective worship provides learners with a variety of experiences. It may be led by staff, visitors or the children themselves.

Organisation and Teaching Methods:
A balance of quiet reflection, silence, scripture, prayers, music, songs, dance, drama or video may be used to encourage the children to 'gather, listen, respond and go forth.' Each class has a visual prayer space, which will reflect either the topic or the Liturgical season.
These celebrations are a foundation for a fuller participation in the Eucharist. By their active participation in celebrations throughout the topics children will be introduced to symbol, gestures and actions of liturgy and worship.
In each 'Come and See' topic there are opportunities for children to participate in community worship in an active, conscious and genuine way.
Parents are regularly invited to join in whole school and year group collective worship celebrations.
We link themes for daily acts of worship to the 'British Values' themes that run throughout the year, this also ties in to SMSC and PSHE. Each theme lasts 3-4 weeks.

Collective Worship Themes:

<u>Autumn Term – 1st half</u>
Week 1-Family
Week 2-Friendship
Week 3-Rules
Week 4-Autumn/Harvest
Week 5-Hopes/Dreams
Week 6-Belonging
Week 7-Sadness/Loss

<u>Autumn Term Themes – 2nd half</u>
Week 8-Patron Saints
Week 9-Rememberance
Week 10-Love
Week 11– Advent
Week 12-Hope
Week 13-Gifts/giving
Week 14 –Christmas

Spring Term 1st Half
Week 1-Community
Week 2-Celebrations
Week 3-Growing
Week 4-Good/Bad
Week 5-Trust & Promises
Week 6-Eucharist

Spring Term 2nd Half
Week 7-Lent
Week 8-Saying Sorry
Week 9-Hope
Week 10-Being Thankful
Week 11–Holy Week/Easter

Summer Term – 1st Half
Week 1-Peace
Week 2-Spring/New Life
Week 3-Special Things
Week 4-Difference
Week 5-Patience
Week 6-Choices
Week 7-Forgiveness/Reconciliation

Summer Term Themes – 2nd Half
Week 8-Being Fair
Week 9-Neighbours
Week 10-Creation
Week 11-Memories
Week 12-Achievements
Week 13–Saying Goodbye

Wherever appropriate, children may be encouraged to help with the preparation, planning and delivery of the celebration. Collective worship is planned using resources that are appropriate to the interests, age, background and ability of learners. An appropriate atmosphere is set where children are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer. Collective Worship is planned and recorded weekly by the class teachers. Throughout each topic children are also given the opportunity to plan and deliver collective worship in a range of situations appropriate to their age, capacity and stage of development. It is evaluated regularly by staff and learners.

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS 2020

Due to school closure in March 2020, the curriculum moved to a duel curriculum until the end of the 2019/20 academic year. Opportunities for

family worship as well as links to online prayer resources were posted on the school website. For those children in school opportunities for worship were made available on a daily basis and provided an integral part of the wellbeing curriculum that was to be delivered.