



Maria Fidelis
Catholic School FCJ

Collective Worship Policy

Committee	Curriculum
Author	Mark Anthony
Ratified By Governing Body	30 th September 2024
Frequency of Review	2 years
Next review Date	Autumn 2026

The FCJ Schools' Vision

Our vision is that FCJ schools are communities of personal and academic excellence.

Strong in companionship, the unique giftedness of every person in these faith communities is recognised, nourished and celebrated.

Our hope and expectation is that, through God's grace working in us all, each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ

Collective Worship Policy

The primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school is 'a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation.'

RE Curriculum Directory (2012)

Mission Statement

Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ is a learning community **“growing together, through Christ, with courage, confidence and dignity”**

Vision Statement

Our vision is that FCJ schools are communities of personal and academic excellence.

Strong in companionship, the unique giftedness of every person in these faith communities is recognised, nourished and celebrated.

Our hope and expectation is that, through God's grace working in us all, each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

Rationale

Collective Worship at Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ aims to provide opportunities for students and staff to come together to worship God, and to respond to the invitation from God to be in relationship with Him. We intend to prepare our pupils to be able and willing take an active role in the liturgical life of the Church. Collective Worship reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church, taking into account the spiritual 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, faith communities or none.

Worship is more than just a legal requirement at Maria Fidelis Catholic School. It is an integral part of school life and central to the FCJ tradition. Everyone in our community is able to contribute to it and gain from it, regardless of level of belief and commitment.

Legal requirements

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act and the DfEE Circular 1/94, Collective Worship at Maria Fidelis Catholic School provides opportunities for students and staff to come together as a community through daily prayer in the classroom, through participation in weekly assemblies, Mass and through other liturgical celebrations. Furthermore, through Collective Worship we are

able to encourage students and staff to reinforce positive attitudes they may have within their community. We also highlight and try to change negative attitudes within our society to encourage a common ethos and shared values amongst all, thus meeting fully the requirements of the law regarding worship.

The aims of Collective Worship at Maria Fidelis Catholic School

- To reflect upon the sacred mystery of the Holy Trinity that is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- To heighten students' awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the beliefs and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development with specific reference to the Catholic tradition.
- To respond to life's challenges and celebrate life's wonders and achievements.
- To give opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer.
- To explore, reflect on, express, affirm, or challenge commonly accepted personal and social values and individually held beliefs.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To seek appropriate responses to the love of God.
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to celebrate'.
- To express our faith as a Christian community thus reinforcing the sense of belonging, the development of community spirit, the promotion of a common ethos and the reinforcement of positive attitudes.
- To provide staff and students with opportunities to worship God hence enabling individual and spiritual moral development.
- To offer students the opportunity to prepare themselves for challenges in their adult life.

To fulfil the above aims we will:

- Ensure the Act of Worship is seen as part of the total curriculum, an integral part of the life of the school and as important;
- Adopt an approach that is based on educational principles which aid the spiritual development of individuals. The form, shape and content will be educational;
- Respect the integrity of the individual, give the opportunity to participate creatively and encourage each to make an individual response to a shared experience;
- Build up resource materials for use in assemblies;
- Endeavour to provide a physical environment that is appropriate to the provision of high-quality assemblies (e.g., seating, music, focal point, etc);
- Involve a wider combination of staff and relevant members of the community in assemblies;
- Ensure all assemblies include student participation, prayer and reflection.
- Provide an opportunity to review Collective Worship through monitoring and evaluation.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- The Act of Worship is a daily event – each year group is assigned a specific day of the week for assembly.
- As a shared outward expression of our inner journey towards a full relationship with God, Collective worship is an intrinsic part of the school day.
- All year groups attend mass at St Aloysius Church once a term.
- As Collective Worship is an opportunity for pupils and staff to explore their own spiritual lives, it contributes towards our school's statutory obligation to provide opportunities for the school community's spiritual and moral development.
- A variety of approaches are used in assembly e.g., poetry, music, scripture readings, drama, prayers, pictures, video clips, power point presentations, visiting speakers and personal testimony.
- The Liturgical Calendar issued at the beginning of the school year indicates a theme for prayer for each week.
- A weekly prayer resource is produced by the RE department and other staff volunteers, which is used as a resource for assemblies and form prayers.
- Celebration of Mass is provided at least once a term for each year group in rotation.
- Special prayer opportunities are provided during Lent and Advent.
- Founder's Day is celebrated on the Friday closest to 16th November; where possible, this includes mass for all students
- Mass is celebrated at least once a month in the school chapel and all staff, students and governors are warmly welcomed
- Holy Days of Obligation are observed and year groups are able to take part in mass in the local parish church.
- Year 7 welcome masses are celebrated annually.
- Retreats are offered to all students.
- Special liturgies take place at Christmas and Easter for all students.

Opportunities, Occasions and Themes of Collective Worship

- Day to day moral issues
- Religious festivals, special days
- Cross-curricular activities
- Annual events/anniversaries
- Aspects of the school curriculum
- The celebration of student achievements
- The inclusion of a variety of visiting speakers
- Class led assemblies

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Pupils are invited to pray at important stages of the day to prepare for the day ahead, give thanks for what is to be enjoyed and reflect on what has been successful, or needs reparation. Prayers are also explained and taught through RE lessons, which is particularly important for our non-Catholic pupils.

Our school motto 'Growing together through Christ with courage, confidence and dignity' recognises that God's grace works through all of our actions and the school prayer life is important in enabling this to happen. Prayer, for the whole school community, also happens:

- In all staff briefings
- At staff INSET days
- Through prayer cards for registration groups and assemblies
- In voluntary opportunities for private prayer in the school chapel
- At the start of governors', senior leadership and other meetings

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The school will review this policy biannually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The effectiveness of the policy will be discussed annually as part of the Head of RE's report.