



**St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School
Egerton Road,
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Collective Worship Policy

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Governing Body Committee	Standards
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This policy is available at <http://www.st-bonaventures.bristol.sch.uk/>



Vision

At St. Bonaventure's we strive to be the best we can, guided by the light of Christ. Through shared acts of daily worship we celebrate "what we believe about God and our relationship to God and each other" (Jim Gallagher 'Our Schools and Our Faith').

Rationale

Collective worship at St. Bonaventure's contributes to the social, cultural, spiritual, and moral development of our pupils, as there is a clear link between the aims of this policy and those of the R.E. and PHSME Policies.

St. Bonaventure's School provides opportunities for the whole school community to gather and celebrate in worship, marking the liturgical seasons and major feasts. There are opportunities for children in class groups to pray together and to actively participate in the preparation of the celebration of Liturgy. Mass is usually held each at the beginning and end of each term and on special feast days. Children in Year 3 are prepared for the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and special Sunday Masses are allocated for these pupils through the Church.

St. Bonaventure's recognises the value of other forms of celebration and prayer, which make it possible for all pupils and staff, whatever their religious allegiance, to plan experiences of worship in which they can participate fully. Whole school reflections take place during Advent and Lent.

All pupils experience opportunities to participate in class assemblies, to prepare readings, prayers and content to present their views and understanding of a curriculum area, or religious theme, which arises out of class activities and which is a stimulus for further reflection.

Worship in school can create among pupils and teachers a real sense of belonging. Small or large gatherings can be equally valuable if the needs, the age and the development of the children are kept to the forefront. When school worship is organised we try to extend the occasion to be open to families and parish.

1. Aims and purpose

1.1. Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- To provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children, through acts of worship, a sense of community spirit and cohesion which through our faith helps us to be tolerant and inclusive of differences;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection.



2. Collective Worship

- 2.1. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school to celebrate.
- 2.2. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- 2.3. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the Individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.4.** While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Roman Catholic, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

- 3.1. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.
- 3.2. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3. The head teacher, deputy head teacher, key stage leaders and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. The Parish Priest and other representatives of charity and CAFOD groups also visit school to conduct assemblies.
- 3.4. We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic faith and from the themes and topics in “God Matters” to draw the school together in common areas of work and classroom concern. We often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas such as R.E., Literacy, Art, Science, PHSME and Music.
- 3.5. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
- 3.6. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Bonaventure’s School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.7. We invite parents to their children’s class assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents and friends are further invited to our many special assemblies and Masses such as Harvest, Christingle, Leavers Mass, some of which take place in St Bonaventure’s Church.
- 3.8.** We welcome governors’ attendance at all our Liturgies at anytime.



4. Right of withdrawal

4.1. We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and review

5.1. Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors and formally during chaplaincy meetings with the parish priest. It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher and the RE Co-ordinator before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

5.2. The R.E. Co-ordinator plans and organises the termly/annual timetable of collective worship. Class teachers work with their pupils in planning together class liturgy, class assembly and class involvement in a Mass within each term. Each class also prepares a display for the hall as a focus for R.E. each term. The R.E. Co-ordinator monitors and evaluates these initiatives each year. Staff meetings and Chaplaincy meetings take place throughout the year when feasts and various celebrations are discussed and planned for.

6. Arrangements for Collective Worship:

6.1. On Non-Assembly days collective worship takes place in each class. Teachers are responsible for their own involvement in developing the prayer life of their pupils whilst in their class. This involves pupils having experience of formal written prayers, composing their own prayers and also collaborative reflective work.

6.2. The whole school comes together to worship on the following days:

- Monday 2.45 to 3.15 - The Head Teacher's Assembly
- Tuesday 2.45 to 3.15 - either as:
 - A class Assembly where the whole school gathers together.
 - A Key Stage Assembly where a Key Stage will gather together – this assembly is led by the KS Co-ordinator.
 - A Year group Assembly where the Year group comes together to worship – this may be led by the children or the teacher.
 - A whole school singing practice.
- Thursday 9.00 to 9.30 - Whole school assembly led by the Deputy
- Friday 9.00 to 9.30 - Praise Assembly led by the members of teaching staff