



CARDINAL NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

September 2017

Reviewed: *Spirituality and
Community Life Committee*

Date of Next Review:
September 2018

**Worship Policy &
Staff Guidance**

WORSHIP POLICY & STAFF GUIDANCE

Our Mission informs our policy...

"God is love, and he who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him" (1 Jn 4:16)

Our mission is to provide an excellent Catholic education for all our students which enables them to respond to the call of Christ throughout their lives.'

"I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness... I ask you to look into your hearts, each day, to find the source of all true love. Jesus is always there. Quietly waiting for us to be still with him and to hear his voice. Deep within your heart, he is calling you to spend time with him in prayer, but this kind of prayer, real prayer, requires discipline."

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to youth September 2010

Our policy concurs with legislation...

The 1988 Education Act and the DfEE Circular 1/94 are the documents that dictate the forms of collective worship in schools. The circular states the aims of collective worship as being to:

- Provide the opportunity for students to worship God
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values
- Reinforce positive attitudes

Our Collective Worship Policy Statement...

Cardinal Newman Catholic School will provide the opportunity for staff and students to worship God personally and as a community through daily prayer in the classroom at the start of the day and in form times, through participation in weekly year group assemblies and through a rota of weekly form group celebrations of the Eucharist and the marking of other special feasts and seasons through various Liturgies and activities.

It is the responsibility of all staff, in line with their commitment to actively support the Catholic ethos of the school, to take an active role in the implementation of this policy as their specific roles and responsibilities permit.

Therefore, at Cardinal Newman Catholic School, it is a natural consequence of our school mission to meet fully the requirements of the law regarding worship.

GUIDANCE TO STAFF

All students start the day with prayer.

This will normally be by using the 'Our Father' or the 'Glory Be'

All students should have prayer activities as part of their daily form time.

It must:

- Reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief
- Be offered to every student every day
- Be appropriate to the family backgrounds, age and aptitude of students

It should offer opportunities to:

- Celebrate together
- Reflect on seasons and feast of the Church's calendar
- Reflect on the monthly School Themes
- Meditate together
- Build community
- Enhance spiritual growth
- Share common values
- Contribute to personal development
- Foster a corporate identity
- Affirm the individual
- Encourage reflection
- Explore beliefs and experiences

Implementing Daily Prayer

Both the core and the wider Chaplaincy team and R.E. Department are able to provide support, advice and resources to help implement our Collective Worship policy. In addition the following information and resources may be helpful:

Suggested resources include

- The students' own spoken, spontaneous prayers
- The students write and read prayers
- Use a prayer book (e.g. School Book of Prayers) – *share/Form Time Resources/Prayer Book*
- Scripture - the Word of God – e.g. readings of the School Mass - *share/Form Time Resources/Form Mass Materials*
- Artefacts, music or videos
- Members of the Chaplaincy team are available to pray with tutor groups and to support prayer activities.
- Silent Meditation teaching introduction and Meditation Timer - *share/Form Time Resources/Meditation*

Suggested ways of presenting prayer

- Make a rota for all students to pray in turn
- Make use of liturgical seasons, such as Advent or Lent
- Make use of the Mass theme and associated prayers and readings (see resources)
- Invite students from other Christian denominations or World Faiths to lead their appointed prayer according to their tradition
- Tutors should take their turn
- Lectio Divina – ‘sacred reading’: the prayerful reading of scripture (see resources)
- Silent Meditation (see resources)

Liturgical Assemblies

Introduction

Assemblies are important regular occasions when the Catholic School reinforces its sense of being a community centred on Christ. It is important that we give assemblies a sense of occasion. Tutors are to be with their Form Group and should see themselves as responsible for their behaviour during assembly.

There is a distinction between an assembly and a liturgy. A Liturgy is a structured act of worship. All assemblies should contain a liturgy within them. A prayer just added onto the end of an otherwise secular assembly is not a liturgy. Notices, praise and instructions are part of the assembly but there needs to be a distinctive element that is the liturgy.

Structure of a Liturgy

There are a number of important and distinct elements to a liturgical assembly: They do not all have to be done strictly in this order but the Start and the Response should normally be kept.

START

There should be a formal start to the liturgy – normally by making the sign of the cross or starting with a short prayer or silence. Students should know that the Liturgy has started.

SCRIPTURE

A piece of scripture or religious writing should be used.

EXPLORE

The theme of the Liturgy should be articulated or introduced – this can be done in a number of ways.

The theme should, with some exceptions, be linked to the monthly School Theme. Within each Monthly Theme there are various sub-themes and events e.g. liturgical feasts (these themes and sub themes are presented in the Staff Planner at the beginning of each month along with a theme prayer).

Explore the theme.

LINK

Link the theme to the religious element of the liturgy drawing out its religious or spiritual significance. This is often done through the use of scripture, psalms, prayers of saints, lives of saints, teachings of the church, hymns, poems etc. This can be also be linked with other religious traditions.

REFLECT

All liturgy/assembly themes and all scripture relates to our own lives either directly or indirectly. These may be more or less obvious but it is essential that a liturgy makes explicit this connection. We reflect on our individual and our collective (Form, Year Group, School, Christian) response. Our reflection may be about our attitudes (morals and ethics), our experiences and aspirations. Our reflection may include the use of music, drama or images. This can be also be done through posing questions that help people to respond to the theme more deeply, it can be done through silence and quiet. It can be done through a picture to look at and an instruction to think about what they would feel. The use of silence cannot be overstated; it provides the opportunity for students to pray/reflect in their hearts.

RESPOND

Response is prayer. There should always be a prayer element in the liturgy that lifts the theme, the exploration, the link and the reflection up to God. This is often done through 'petitionary prayers' done in the same style as the 'Bidding Prayers' at Mass.

The reader states WHO they are praying for and then identifies WHAT they are praying for this person or group of people. The Prayer should end with **"Lord in your mercy"** and the response from everyone should be **"Hear our Prayer"**. The petitionary prayers can be concluded with a final prayer. Often the 'Our Father' or the 'Glory Be'