

St Alban's

Catholic Voluntary Academy

Part of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Collective Worship Policy



Our Mission Statement

"Learning, Loving and Living together, side by side with God."

Our Vision

Learning

We try our best



Loving

We show respect



Living

We take care of one another and our things



INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Governors and staff of St Alban's are committed to inclusive practice, ensuring that collective worship is accessible to all and that barriers to learning, participation, and spiritual engagement are actively reduced.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

At St Albans, the Governors and staff are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all, rooted in respect, dignity, and consideration for every individual. Discrimination or prejudice of any kind is not tolerated, and this principle applies to both adults and children in our school community.

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship in a Catholic school gives praise and thanks to God. It is our response, through words and actions, to God's invitation to build a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Children are encouraged to plan and lead Collective worship, with staff support provided according to their age, experience, and individual needs.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In line with statutory requirements and Canon Law, all pupils at St Alban's take part in a daily act of collective worship. This may take place at any time during the school day, either as a whole-school act or in smaller groups.

An assembly that simply includes a prayer does not, on its own, meet the requirement for Collective worship. While Collective worship and assembly may occur within the same gathering, their distinct purpose is always made clear.

Collective worship is not curriculum time and is separate from Religious Education.

As a Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy within the Diocese of Nottingham, the Governing Body holds responsibility for Collective worship, in consultation with the Headteacher.

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

Collective worship at St Alban's reflects the religious and educational needs of all who take part. This includes those who are active members of the Church, those for whom school may be their first or only experience of worship, those from other Christian traditions or none, and those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective worship is an educational experience in which everyone is invited to participate, contribute, and grow.

In our school, Collective worship is more than a statutory requirement; it is an integral part of daily school life and central to our Catholic identity and tradition.



THE AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collective worship gives pupils and staff the opportunity to encounter God, reflect on their beliefs, and celebrate life together. It fosters a sense of belonging and community, nurtures shared Catholic values, deepens understanding of prayer and liturgy, and supports spiritual, moral, and personal growth in accordance with the teachings of the Church.

Collective worship is guided by the following principles:

- **Christ-Centred:** Worship reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic tradition.
- **Inclusive:** All pupils and staff are welcomed and able to participate, regardless of faith or background.
- **Pupil-Led:** Children are encouraged to plan and lead worship, with support tailored to their age and needs.
- **Spiritual and Moral Growth:** Worship offers opportunities to reflect on spiritual, moral, and ethical issues.
- **Community and Belonging:** Collective worship strengthens a sense of community, shared values, and mutual respect.
- **Educational:** Worship enhances understanding of Catholic prayers, liturgy, and traditions.
- **Time for Reflection:** Pupils and staff are given space to pause, wonder, and appreciate God's presence in their lives.

Through these aims and principles, Collective worship at St Alban's is both a spiritual and educational experience, central to school life and the Catholic identity of our community.

HOW COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS ORGANISED IN OUR SCHOOL

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collective worship is planned and delivered throughout the week to ensure that all pupils and staff have regular opportunities to engage with prayer, reflection, and the teachings of the Church.

We have a daily act of Collective worship, with regular whole-school gatherings. Our Chaplaincy Team actively live out the ministry of the school, leading and delivering weekly acts of worship based on the "Word of the Week," helping pupils to explore and reflect on the message of Scripture.

The Senior Leadership Team leads weekly singing worship and praise and worship celebrations, providing opportunities for the whole school community to come together in prayer, song, and reflection.

Each class also has its own class-based liturgy, giving pupils the opportunity to explore the word of God and Catholic traditions in a smaller, more intimate setting, supported by their class teacher.

Once a term, each phase joins the parish on a Sunday to actively participate in Mass, serving as pupils' ministry to our wider community.

Collective worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Pupils are reminded that it is a period of calm reflection and a special time in the school day. Children are encouraged to be quiet, thoughtful, and attentive, listening, reflecting, and meditating on the teachings, signs, and symbols presented. They are guided to understand the purpose of gathering, listening, and responding, and to take forward the mission of the Church in their daily lives.

We keep parents informed and involved through Dojo, newsletters, and invitations to join Collective worship, fostering a strong link between home, school, and parish life.

Collective worship is flexible and may take place at different times during the day, allowing all pupils to participate fully and meaningfully. It is carefully planned to be inclusive, age-appropriate, and supportive of pupils' spiritual, moral, and religious development.



THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At St Albans Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collective worship is carefully planned to be meaningful, inclusive, and age-appropriate. It reflects the liturgical calendar, Church seasons, and the spiritual and moral needs of the school community.

Worship may include Scripture readings, prayers, reflections, hymns, songs, and symbolic actions. Pupils are actively involved in planning and leading worship, supported according to their age and needs.

Collective worship is conducted in a calm, dignified, and respectful way, encouraging pupils to listen, reflect, and respond thoughtfully. Class-based liturgies, whole-school gatherings, and phase-based parish Mass participation ensure a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth, celebration, and engagement with the Catholic faith.

PROPHECY & PROMISE
BRANCH 2

Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise

Thinking back to the Celebration of the Word we have just participated, reflect on the four elements Gather, Word, Respond and Mission. Write a short reflection in the boxes below about how the different elements made you feel and what are you going to do moving forward.

Gather

Word

Respond

Mission

RECORDING

Collective worship is recorded, and examples of planning are kept in a Collective Worship floor book in each classroom.

Evidence of Collective worship can also be seen through displays, collections of pupils' work and contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, and videos.

RESOURCES

At St Albans Catholic Voluntary Academy, a range of resources is available to support the planning and delivery of Collective worship, all of which are treated with mutual respect and dignity.

Each classroom also has a prayer box containing a variety of resources to support daily worship and reflection. In addition, a whole-school prayer resource cupboard is available for staff to use in their classrooms and prayer areas.

Resources for celebrating Mass are kept in a designated box, ensuring that staff and pupils have what they need for liturgical celebrations.

The school has its own altar and lectern in the hall, serving as a central focus for whole-school Collective worship, providing a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and liturgical celebrations.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Collective worship is monitored half-termly through observations, floor books, and pupil voice. Evaluations are carried out by the Senior Leadership Team, the Prayer and Liturgy Lead, pupils, parents, parishioners, and feedback from the parish priest is taken on board. The Prayer and Liturgy Lead and the school Chaplain meet each half term to review evaluations and plan improvements, ensuring worship remains meaningful, engaging, and supports the Catholic life of the school.

THE PRAYER AND LITURGY LEAD: Mrs Louise Franik

THE ROLE OF PRAYER AND LITURGY LEAD

The Prayer and Liturgy Lead at St Albans Catholic Voluntary Academy has a key role in supporting and developing the spiritual life of the school, in line with Canon Law and the guidance of the Diocese of Nottingham.

Their responsibilities include:

- Leading the planning, organisation, and delivery of Collective worship across the school.
- Supporting staff and pupils in understanding and participating in the Catholic liturgy, prayers, and sacraments.
- Providing guidance and training for staff to ensure that acts of worship are meaningful, inclusive, and reflective of the teachings of the Church.
- Working with the Chaplaincy Team, Senior Leadership, and parish to ensure that the liturgical life of the school is connected with the wider parish community.
- Monitoring and evaluating Collective worship, including reviewing floor books, gathering pupil voice, and incorporating feedback from staff, pupils, parents, and the parish priest.
- Meeting regularly with the school Chaplain to review evaluations, plan improvements, and support the mission of the Church within the school.
- Ensuring that Collective worship reflects the liturgical calendar, feast days, and seasons of the Church, in line with the Catholic tradition and Canon Law obligations.

Through their work, the Prayer and Liturgy Lead ensures that Collective worship is a central, active part of school life, nurturing pupils' spiritual, moral, and religious development and fostering a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith

COMMUNICATION

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, clear communication ensures that Collective worship is valued and understood across the school community.

This includes:

- Informing pupils, staff, governors, and parents about the purpose and content of worship.
- Reporting to and consulting with the Head Teacher and Governors on developments.
- Welcoming and guiding staff in school worship practices.
- Liaising with the Parish Priest, the parish community, and the Diocesan RE Centre for support and guidance.

Through effective communication, Collective worship is actively supported and integrated into school life.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Headteacher, RE Lead, and Prayer and Liturgy Lead regularly review Collective worship through observations, floor books, pupil voice, and feedback.

The Governing Body formally reviews the policy, and copies are shared with the Parish Priest and Parish Mission & Support Officer to support the school's Catholic mission.

Signed: Mrs T. McNamara (Headteacher) Date: January 2026

Signed: Stuart Olivier (Chair of Governors) Date: January 2026

Date of next review: January 2027