

St. Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St Alban's Catholic Primary School will educate our young children within a happy caring environment and Christian atmosphere, thus their whole lives may be inspired by the Spirit of Christ they experience.

"Learning together, side by side with God."

This policy was reviewed October 2018;
This policy will be reviewed in the September 2020 by the Governing Body.

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collective Worship is at the centre of our day. We believe joining together as a community to pray and reflect emphasises our motto "Learning together, side by side with God." We give our children a variety of opportunities to pray in a variety of different forms.

SECTION 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship and encounter God;
- to enable children to contemplate on spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to inspire participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to uphold a shared ethos sharing our "ALBAN" values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to pray and worship and to develop their spirituality.

SECTION 3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 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 community. We expect everybody to take an active part in this.

3.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', our liturgies are generally based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we deliver these in a way that is shows thought to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

SECTION 4 ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1 We hold daily acts of collective worship. This is in the form of; whole school, key stage, or class, prayers, liturgies and Masses. Increasingly, the majority of which are child led.

- 4.2 We conduct liturgies in a respectful way. Children know that this time can be 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 reflection, prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a focal point for the maintaining the attention of the children.
- 4.3 We take the themes of our liturgies from the traditions of the Catholic faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Liturgical calendar. We use the topics in our “Come and See” RE programme as the basis of our Acts of Worship. Each class will also lead an Act of Worship on their class Bible story or their class patron saint. Sometimes the themes of our class assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the wider school curriculum sharing the knowledge that children have acquired. Each class also leads their own Mass within the classroom environment which is also the parish Mass for that day. Each year group prepares and leads the 10:30 Sunday Mass at St Alban’s Church once a year.
- 4.4 Our weekly Golden Book Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. This plays an important role in promoting the ethos and values of the school, which is that all are valued and all achievements are recognised. It is important to our community that we celebrate the successes of all the children in this assembly.
- 4.5 Where possible we invite parents to liturgies and assemblies and we actively encourage they attend, as this promotes the pastoral letter of Bishop Patrick from November 2018. This emphasises the strong community spirit of the school and is an overt demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 4.6 We welcome governors’ attendance at our liturgies and assemblies at any time.

SECTION 5 RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

- 5.1 We expect all children to attend liturgy and Mass. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 5.2 The headteacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

SECTION 6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 6.1 It is the role of a named school governor (Fr David Cain) with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher or deputy headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship. The children, staff and visitors evaluate the liturgies and masses so that we can develop them.