



Worship Policy

Policy Agreed	October 2019
To be Reviewed	
Written by	Mrs Lockett
Signed	
Designation	

ST MALACHY'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Malachy's is a Catholic School where we will all do our best to do the work of Jesus.

We will study, pray, play and celebrate together.

We will care for each other and look after each other, just like a big family. It is important to remember that we are all good and clever in different ways.

We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.

In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

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St Malachy's School Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks for our school for it is a special place.

Fill it with faith, hope, joy, peace and love.

As we learn and as we play, help us to find our gift and share it with the world.

St. Malachy pray for us...

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults at St. Malachy's R.C. Primary Schools are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Within this, children have the right to be treated equally in line with the equality duty was created under the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, all staff at St Malachy's aim to teach children about worship in order to promote a positive relationship between themselves and God as well as developing their full potential as part of the community. This is in order to promote tolerance and respect of different faiths, which in turn, promotes community cohesion now, and in later life. Through this policy, we aim to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all children feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously. Additionally, under the Education Act 2002, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2019.' Our policy ensures that we comply with our Statutory Duties.

THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Worship is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Through WORK, to develop our full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.

Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.

Through WITNESS, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs

- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'
- To give thanks to God, to listen to Him, to ask for and receive forgiveness, to place our own needs and the needs of others into His hands.

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF ST MALACHY'S

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. Collective worship and assembly are two distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious 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 - or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.
- It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

GOOD PRACTICE

- A visible prayer and worship area in every classroom in line with the theme for each half term (see Liturgical and Para-liturgical Overviews)
- A developmental approach to pupils taking an increasing role in the planning, preparation and lead in prayer and worship
- A sacred space should be created through a focal point, music, lighting etc. to remind us of the presence of God
- Scripture, the word of God, is given prominence
- The process of Gathering, Listening, Responding and Mission is a general guide to structure
- Silence is used effectively to allow for thought, prayer and reflection
- There is effective use made of music
- It is a learning experience but the focus is on worship and not on teaching
- Children are skilled in preparing as well as leading acts of worship
- Gathering and leaving is conducted appropriately
- It is appropriately paced
- There is evidence of a variety of approaches: telling a story, describing a situation or event, using images, special objects, dance, drama, music etc.
- Opportunity is taken to use liturgical responses and actions

- It encourages thinking about the needs of others

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF WORSHIP

- The impact of worship is evaluated by children and adults after each session and points for development are considered, making worship an evaluative process.

LITURGY, PARA-LITURGY AND WORSHIP WILL TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS:

- Prayers at the beginning and end of each day, and before meals.
- Longer quiet times of prayer and reflection
- Appropriate assemblies
- Liturgies and Masses
- Collective worship in class

THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- St Malachy's have an annual overview of Liturgy and Para-Liturgy that take place in school and at St Malachy's Church.
- Para-liturgical worship in class follows the 'Statements of Belief' structure
- We respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- When preparing an act of worship, a focus is created and we consider which resources will be most supportive.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND INCLUSION

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate access collective worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP RECORDING

- Collective Worship planning is recorded on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources.
- Collective Worship is recorded through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

MONITORING AND DEVELOPMENT

At least once a year the school's provision of worship is evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

RESOURCES

Resources are stored in each class in a prayer box. There are also shared resources in the RE storage area on the Key Stage 1 corridor.