



St Thomas More Catholic First School, Redditch

Learning, Loving and Living together with Christ

Collective Worship Policy

Aims and objectives

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of St Thomas More School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by:

- providing an opportunity for children to worship God
- enabling children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enabling children to explore our Catholic Faith
- encouraging participation and response
- promoting a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- teaching children how to worship

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, Mass or liturgy. We expect everyone to take an active part in all acts of collective worship.

While all acts of worship in our school are in line with the Teachings and Doctrines of the Catholic Church, we also hold assemblies that inform us about the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We have also introduced 'Virtues and Values' which are an important part of collective worship as they teach the children how to live their lives.

Summer 1 2016 - Eloquent & Truthful

Summer 2 2016 - Learned & Wise

Autumn 1 2016 - Curious & Active

Autumn 2 2016 - Intentional & Prophetic

Spring 1 2017 - Grateful & Generous

Spring 2 2017 - Attentive & Discerning

Summer 1 2017 - Compassionate & Loving

Summer 2 2017 - Faith-filled & Hopeful

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be in the form of a whole school assembly, key stage assembly, class worship or class prayers

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Whole school assemblies and key stage assemblies are led by teaching staff.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic Faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Thomas More Catholic First School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies. Governors' attendance at our assemblies, liturgies and Masses is always welcome.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly, liturgy and Mass. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the RE co-ordinator and the school link governor.

RE Leader: Mrs S Hicks

Date: April 2016