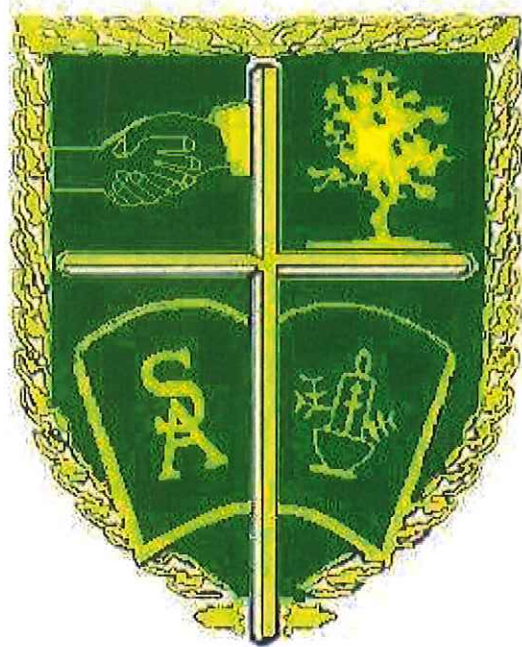


# St Antony's Catholic Primary School



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*Learning together  
in  
God's love*

Reviewed & Agreed by staff: September 2016  
Agreed by Governors: January 2017  
Review date: September 2019

## **St. Antony's Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy**

### **Our Mission Statement**

At St. Antony's Catholic School we celebrate our special talents as children of God:

- We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts.
- We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together.
- We understand that we are all different but we respect each other.
- We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace.

### **Aims and purpose**

- The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

### **Collective worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organization of collective worship**

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes place through hymn practice, separate infant and junior assemblies and a whole school assembly all taking place once a week. On one day teachers hold collective worship within their classes.
- 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- The head teacher, deputy or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups or other organisations also lead assemblies

- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on 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 assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- We invite parents to class assemblies and encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way our school and home work together to support the achievements of all pupils.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- School masses are held on a very regular basis at St Antony's Church. Children are fully involved in all aspects of the mass and there is always a very high turnout of parents and parishioners.

### **Right of withdrawal**

- We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.
- The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and review**

- It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.