

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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| Author  | A. Clare |
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Academy Mission Statement:

***At Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy***

***we will build up a loving community with***

***Christ at its centre;***

***develop potential to the full and***

***strive for excellence;***

***work and play in harmony;***

***and treat each other with dignity and respect.***

**The Nature of Collective Worship.**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic Academy is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour and praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# Our Philosophy and Purpose

In the light of our mission statement, if Christ is to be at our centre, then we must acknowledge His place there every day in our acts of worship and prayer.

As our Catholic Academy is grounded in the Gospel values, so they must guide us in our daily activity and be the basis of our daily worship. We believe worship expresses and builds community as well as the individual's relationship with God. We must begin each day with God, in prayer and celebration. The daily act of worship must be a separate and specific part of our day. It is distinct from the giving of notices and discipline.

## The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy

*We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in it:*

* Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
* Those who form part of the worshipping community in our academy;
* Those for whom the academy may be their first and only experience of church;
* Those from other Christian backgrounds;
* Those from other world faith backgrounds;
* Those from other backgrounds who are admitted to the academy under the categories agreed by the Governing Body as the admission authority.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain at a level or faith background appropriate to them.

**Legal Requirements.**

We acknowledge the legal statutory requirement that a daily Act of Worship is provided for all pupils and students on the academies register.[[2]](#footnote-2) (This can take place at any time during the academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils/students or separate acts of worship in groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

**Provision for Act of Collective Worship Post 16 (School Leaving Age)**

Subsequent to the 2006 Education and Inspection Act the situation in relation to all student post formal school leaving age in School or college if they are beyond formal school leaving age is:

#### 2006 Education Act on “Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at worship”

# (1) Section 71 of SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance at religious worship, makes provision for exceptions and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows.

# (1A) if the parent of any pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary academy other than a sixth-form pupil requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the academy, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

# (1B) if a sixth-form pupil requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary academy, the pupil shall be so excused.”

# The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Curriculum Religious Education.

In Catholic Voluntary Academies and colleges within the state sector, as with any voluntary aided schools or Academies, responsibility for the provision of collective worship along with the logistics for the provision for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body and is normally delegated to the Head teacher.

Collective Worship will:

Follow a structure with reference to the Church’s liturgical seasons, curriculum Religious Education, significant feasts and events. Scripture will be the main focus in most acts of worship

Involve consultation with appropriate parties, i.e. local priests or deacons and resource staff within the academy in the context of academy aims and policies

Allow flexibility to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community

Developing skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always contributing in a token way.

Worship in Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of our communities’ life and central to the Catholic tradition.

**The Aims of Collective Worship**

*We believe that the Collective Worship at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy aims to provide opportunity for all pupils, staff and visitors:*

* To contemplate something of the mystery of God;
* To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
* To explore and reflect on their own beliefs and value systems;
* To respond to and celebrate life;
* To experience a sense of belonging and community;
* To develop a common ethos and shared value system;
* To enrich religious experience and the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the students;
* To grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills;
* To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
* To reinforce positive attitudes;
* To nurture and educate our students on their journey and towards full and active participation in the liturgical life of their faith communities through as full a participation as possible;
* To take time ‘to wonder at’, ‘to come to terms with’ and ‘to give meaning and worth to’ life.

# Principles

*All Acts of Worship in Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy will:*

Give glory and honour to God;

Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of our academy and its Catholic character;

Give our students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Build our academy into a community founded on Jesus’ life and teachings as expressed through the saints and other inspirational people.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

Be short and appropriately paced

Be reflective, engaging and clear, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

*Collective Worship is planned by:*

The Academy Chaplain

Student Chaplaincy Team- The 2:10 PROJECT

RE department

House Leaders / Deputy House Leaders

Senior Staff

Tutors

Students

Once an act of worship / service or assembly has been delivered, it should be recorded on the staff shared area for others to access.

*The Content and Delivery of Collective Worship:*

# Liturgical Celebrations

**Sacramental**

**Eucharist - Celebration of Mass**

Eucharistic celebrations in our academy will highlight a special occasion and will be celebrated with all students. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as for other acts of academy worship, therefore opportunities for students to participate will be maximised.

We believe that all students are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In the academy, therefore,the ‘**Liturgy of the Word’,** rather than the Eucharist may be the norm, though regular Eucharistic celebration will be planned, especially for Holy Days of Obligation, House Feast Days and Saint Benedict Day.

* We begin the year with a Mass for staff on the first INSET day
* We have a welcome Mass for yr7 and 12 pupils, and new staff on the second day of term.
* All Holy Days of Obligation that occur during term time are celebrated with Mass. Houses are paired up and they gather in three large spaces. Mass is then celebrated in those venues at the same time. If three Priests are not available Eucharistic Services will take place led by the Chaplain or Senior Catholic Staff.
* We celebrate Saint Benedict’s Day with a Mass for the remaining members of the community on or around his Feast Day of the 11th July.
* House Patron feast days are celebrated with a Mass for that House group.
* We have Leaver’s Masses to mark the end of years 11 and 13.
* Each Wednesday morning at 8.00am there is a Voluntary Mass in the Chapel.
* All Year groups through RE study the Eucharist, and prepare a celebration of the Holy Mass, which takes place in their Lesson.
* Mass is celebrated to remember those associated with the academy who have died, families and friends of the deceased are invited to join us.
* *We also remember global events such as The Hillsborough disaster, 7/7, Remembrance Day and Armistice Day.*
* November – the month of the Holy Souls: Prayer intentions are gathered during November.
* On the last Friday of every month we celebrate Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite staff /pupils to join us for this service at lunchtime.
* Our Masses are attended by staff and others from our parish communities. Larger celebrations are attended by governors, ex-staff and friends of the academy.

. **Reconciliation**

* Penitential themed liturgies are celebrated in conjunction with the RE syllabus and are prepared and led by Chaplaincy and students in class groups.
* Sacramental Reconciliation, with the opportunity for individual confession, is offered to pupils and staff when priests are available.

**Other**

* Pupils and staff are invited to Morning Prayer before the day begins in Lent and Advent in the Chapel. Prayers are reflective of the season, e.g. Stations of the Cross during Lent. These are led by the Academy Chaplain, and other Staff.
* RE classes have prayer services to coincide with specific aspects of the KS3/KS4 syllabi. E.g. Rosary in y10
* Ash Wednesday is celebrated with a service involving the distribution of ashes. This is led by the Chaplain, Eucharistic Student Ministers and other senior Catholic staff, e.g. Director of Learning (DOL) for RE, in House groupings.
* Carol services are held for all House groups to celebrate Advent. These are coordinated by the Chaplain and led by House teams with student involvement.
* Advent and Lent Assemblies are coordinated by the Chaplaincy team each school year.
* A joint “Family Carol Service” is held at St Mary’s Church Derby and is organised to include Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, St Mary’s Primary School and the Parish of St Mary and Holy Family.
* Assemblies take place once a week for each House group and are led by House Leaders, Deputy House Leaders, senior staff and the Chaplain. Tutor Groups are involved in organising and presenting assemblies.
* Each Tutor Group has an act of worship during morning Tutor time. This is prepared by the Chaplaincy the 2:10 Project and led by form tutors, and members of the Tutor Group. This takes the form of a Power Point slide show for each day of the week with scripture and prayer reflections. Tutor groups are free to plan their own prayer resources as well.

**Recording**

*Collective Worship is recorded by:*

Electronic Folder in the individual House section on staff shared area

Paper copy / hard copy of all services.

Through displays, collections of pupils’ contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year the academy’s provision of worship will be formally evaluated as part of the Academy’s review process, to consider whether it meets the needs of all students and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This is informed by Section 48 guidance, which involved student Voice, observations of collective acts of worship and interviews with students and staff.

**Policy Monitoring and Review**

The policy is monitored by the member of the senior management team who has Collective Worship responsibility along with the Co-ordinator (**Academy Chaplain – Jannice Richthof**). It is evaluated and reviewed by the academy staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors (in the name of the Diocesan Trustees) will have a particular role and responsibility for this review. The overall responsibility of Governors from a statutory perspective and Foundation Governors from the canonical perspective needs to be clearly stated in the context of the denominational nature of our academy.

**Resources**

* There is a weekly Power Point, which gives readings reflections and prayers each day.
* Staff are encouraged to refer to the Chaplain and the RE department who are happy to share resources and expertise.
* There is a bank of reflective music on CD in the Chapel, and on line.
* A collection of books available from the Chaplaincy.
* The Gideon’s visit us each year and present year 7 pupils with a New Testament.
* The Chapel is always available for reflection and prayer.
* Each classroom has a cross or crucifix, an inspirational scripture or quote that reflects the mission statement, a copy of the Academy Mission Statement, the prayer of Saint Benedict. A picture of Pope Francis and the Bishop of Nottingham (Sede Vacante.)
* The Saint Benedict CVA website offers a Link and Resources page.
* The website also includes a prayer page where anyone can submit a prayer and the 2:10 PROJECT would prayer at the end of the month.
* The 2:10 PROJECT has composed a prayer book that is made available in PDF format to the school community.
* The Angelus and many other prayers are in the Student diary prayer pages.

**Retreats**

Year 12 and 13 Retreat to the Briars – Autumn Term/Easter

Year 10 Retreat to the Briars – Winter Term

Year 8 Retreat to the Briars – Spring Term

Staff and Governors Celebration and Reflection – Summer Term

**Pilgrimage**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham June

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – July (16+)

**Inset**

Inset on Spirituality is provided each year through twilight sessions

Every two years a whole academy Inset day off site is planned

1. It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of ‘Collective Worship’ in schools. ‘Collective Worship’ is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. ‘Prayer’ and ‘Liturgy are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to ‘timetabled slots’ but may take place in a variety of contexts other that those which are specifically structured. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)