



St Peter's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre

Policy Document – Collective Worship Policy

Aims

The aim of this policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered

Statutory Duty

St Peter's has a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship and this is offered through morning prayers in form time, Angelus and end of day prayer/reflection via the tannoy.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of collective worship. These are:

- Inclusive in nature
- Broadly educational in content
- Specifically spiritual, moral, social and cultural in content

Inclusive

St Peter's requires its collective worship to:

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions that exist in our multicultural society. However, the majority of acts of collective worship will be wholly of a broadly Christian character
- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- Be suitable for every student to attend unless withdrawn by a parent/carer. This must be via a written request and a follow up meeting with the Principal
- Focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the students
- Include active participation by students, parents, visitors and members of the local parishes, either in preparation or performance

Educational

St Peter's requires its assemblies to:

- Have a prayerful and spiritual focus linked to the theme of the assemblies
- Reflect the aims of the school and foster a sense of shared values in line with the school mission statement
- Be valuable learning experiences and, as such, to be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning
- To enhance, complement and extend the curricular work



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- To provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the students
- To provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

Liturgies following the liturgical year should:

- Provide a brief period of reflection from the busy life of the school, when students will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure
- Provide students with an invitation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent
- Provide students with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words
- Provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers
- Have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day

The Celebration of Mass

This is the most important example of collective worship as it is the source and summit of our faith:

- There are opportunities for students to attend mass in school during the school year
- All students, regardless of whether they have made their First Holy Communion, are invited and welcome to come up for a blessing during mass
- Each year group has a liturgy for their year saint and for Christmas and Easter

Lay Chaplain

The Lay Chaplain:

- Has the responsibility for the planning and delivery of a retreat experience to years 7, 9 and 12 each year, and is supported by the RE department with running the retreat days
- Has the responsibility for leading the spiritual and liturgical life of the school
- Has the responsibility for liaising with the priests of our feeder deaneries
- Has the responsibility for co-ordinating the charity life of the school
- Is available to support all students, parents and staff

The full governing body monitors the provision of collective worship in the school community, working with the Principal and Senior Vice Principal.