



St Ursula's Convent School

A Humanities College and Teaching School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to ensure that every individual achieves their potential through the pursuit of academic excellence and the nurturing of their gifts and talents.

To create a caring Catholic community; allowing everyone to develop and share in the love of Christ; serving the world of today and tomorrow through the relationships we make and the service we provide to others.

Ursuline Core Values

As Ursulines we continue the approach to ministry which draws its life and vision from St Angela's spirit and philosophy. Inspired by the call of the same Gospel, and challenged by the needs of our time, we, like Angela, ground our mission in the following core values:

- Spiritual formation and faith development
- Respect for the uniqueness of the individual
- Development of the whole person
- Development of a nurturing community spirit
- Commitment to peace-making
- Serviam (I will serve) as a lived reality
- Development of leadership skills for every individual

A hallmark of an Ursuline school is academic excellence and a shared vision and profile.

Introduction

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, thanks and praise to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship that has been made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups). We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either 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.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes).

In this voluntary aided Catholic school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the head teacher.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child / children from Collective Worship. However, given its importance 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 than those which are specifically structured.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St. Ursula's

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 will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We will continue to foster and deepen the student's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer
- Prayer through song and music
- Liturgical prayer and observances

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship, for example students pray at the start of each lesson.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship:

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all students 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 out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles:

All acts of worship in this school will:

- give glory to God
- be a quality educational activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character, including aspects of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole person
- give students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds, in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, our celebrations are kept small wherever possible, to help students personalise the experience. We also keep them relatively short, appropriately paced and simple, albeit including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective Worship is organized at St. Ursula's as follows: -

Lead by staff and / or students SLT assemblies alternate with Year Group assemblies

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 2
	Year Assembly	Class prayers	SLT Assembly
Monday	Year 7	Whole school	
Tuesday	Year 8	Whole school	

Wednesday	Year 10		Year 11
Thursday	Year 11		Years 9 & 10
Friday	Year 9		Years 7 & 8

Eucharist and Liturgy Schedule

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for students and staff to participate are maximised and where feasible parents / carers and other members of the school and wider community are invited to attend. Such services take place in the Parish Church of Our Ladye Star of the Sea, St. Angela's School Chapel or a school assembly hall

The celebrations will take the following forms: -

- Start of Academic Year Masses
- Class / Year Masses and Liturgies
- Holy Days of Obligation Masses for Years 7 and 8
- Examination Mass for Year 11
- Friday Mass (8:00am open to all)
- Christmas Carol Service
- Ash Wednesday Liturgical service
- Lenten Liturgies
- St. Ursula's Day Services
- Year 6 Welcome Day Liturgy
- Termly and end of year Prize Giving Liturgies

Planning

Collective worship is planned:

- following a structure linked to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- with reference to the school's aims and policies
- to develop in students the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship themselves, rather than participating or contributing in a token way.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship including those which can be found on a variety of internet sites and in the Chaplaincy area. The Chaplain provides resources for key events and links to the Liturgical Calendar are highlighted weekly via the bulletin and also Outlook Calendar.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated annually through the School Improvement Plan and Performance Management to consider whether it meets the needs of students and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of St. Ursula's. In addition as part of the school's pastoral monitoring programme the daily act of worship is monitored half termly and reported to Governors.