



Salvatorian
College

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

"This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

Reviewed: October 2022

BACKGROUND

Our mission as a school is to **embrace the teachings of Christ as crystallised in our virtues which are founded upon the Beatitudes**. From each Beatitude, drawn from Jesus' sermons on the Mount and on the Plain, we have identified a virtue with a clear definition of the behaviours associated with that virtue.

- **Integrity:** we are honest and demonstrate strong moral principles.
- **Compassion:** we show care and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
- **Humility:** we are not proud because we are aware of our own shortcomings/
- **Justice:** we strive to be fair and reasonable.
- **Forgiveness:** we forgive others for their offences, flaws or mistakes.
- **Holiness:** we aim to lead our lives informed by Gospel values.
- **Tolerance:** we accept behaviour and beliefs that are different from our own even if we do not believe in them.
- **Service:** we go out of our way to help others whenever we can.

In our pursuit of excellence, we will foster a greater love and knowledge of the Divine Saviour. We will develop in our pupils exemplary manners and a commitment to their studies so that they make outstanding progress. We will nurture our pupils so that they become effective leaders of good influence.

Salvatorian College exists to serve its Parish and Community. The school seeks to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure, loved and respected and where all can grow in their spirituality and understanding of God's plan.

Salvatorian College encourages all:

- through **WORK**, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God;
- through **WORSHIP**, to learn to know and love God and recognise the person of Christ in others;
- through **WITNESS** to celebrate the Gospel messages including our virtues founded on the Beatitudes.

Salvatorian College is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is recognised as being made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a carefully sequenced, enriching curriculum which develops independence and self-resilience.

INTRODUCTION

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, 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. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Executive leadership of the school.

2. THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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; and
- those from other faith backgrounds, or none.

As well as providing an experience of Worship, it will be an educational activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We will continue to foster and deepen the children'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 (liturgy);
- formal prayer; and,
- retreats.

Prayer at Salvatorian College is not confined to formalised acts of worship. Children are encouraged to pray at points throughout the school day.

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.

3. THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils 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;
- to reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition;
- to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to participate fully;
- to make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to' God.

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- give glory and honour to God;
- be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic Character;

- give children 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, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced;
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

4. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Planning

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons and liturgical calendar. This planning ensures that significant dates such as Saint's days, Holy Days of Obligation and our own Founder's day are marked and celebrated.

- Plans will be broadly based on each year group's long term planning for liturgies.
- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship.
- Collective worship will relate to the school community in the light of the school's vision and mission.
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- Pupils will be taught the skills they need to prepare, organise and lead worship.
- Staff will be taught the skills they need to facilitate prayer and liturgy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, collective worship provision will be evaluated against the improvement plan to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the vision and mission of the school. We will take into account the voice of pupils and other relevant stakeholders.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. The governors are determined that prayer and liturgy is prioritised when allocating funding. Physical resources for prayer and liturgy are available through the Head of Religious Education and our Chaplain and staff are encouraged to use the Chapel for reflection and prayers with pupils. The Head of Religious Education and Chaplain work together to evaluate the appropriateness of resources. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning eg <https://missio.org.uk/>

Sacraments

As a Roman Catholic school, our sacramental understanding of our faith inspires us to place great importance on sacramental acts as part of our Collective Worship strategy. The sacraments will be made available in the following forms:

- Whole school Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and significant Feasts in St Joseph's Church
- Year group Masses once a term in St Joseph's Church
- Class Masses and Liturgies on a weekly basis in the Blessed Francis Jordan Chapel
- Key Stage Liturgies in the Francis Jordan Hall and in St Joseph's Church
- Reconciliation liturgies in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent
- Availability of informal reconciliation by appointment with the Chaplain

- Confirmation is overseen by the Parish Priest of St Joseph's and the parish Catechists and is open to all pupils at Salvatorian College