

Bishop Douglass

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

Our School Mission:

We strive to make known to all our community that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that God loves us all as unique and precious. We aim that all members of our community grow in the example of Christ, and live out the teachings of the sermon on the mount. Our pupils are supported to develop their prayer life, as life in all its fullness centres on a deepening relationship with God. Our community recognises its obligations to see Christ in everyone and to reach out in a charitable and loving way to all people. We are committed to the common good and to being good stewards of our planet.

Our mission can be summarised as following the teachings of Christ regarding the blessings outlined in the sermon on the mount in the Beatitudes. As a school community, we have embraced these and loosely linked them **to our virtues** we wish to embody as a community.

Humility – blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

Reflection – blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

Diligence – blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth

Ambition – blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled

Empathy – blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy

Generosity – blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

Kindness – blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God

Resilience – blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

In our pursuit of excellence, we will foster a greater love and knowledge of the Divine Saviour. Our personal development of pupils seeks to bring them to and understanding of the ways of Christ to be better able to follow his ways. Our pupils should be reflective and considerate citizens, polite and diligent learners.

Bishop Douglass School 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.

Bishop Douglass School encourages all:

- Through WORK, to reach his or her full potential as an individual created in God's image and likeness
- Through WORSHIP, to come to know and love God and recognise the presence of Christ in others
- Through WITNESS, to celebrate the Beatitudes and the Gospel values, embodied by the mission and motto of our school

Bishop Douglass School is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is recognised as being made in the image and likeness of God. We are a Catholic school, not a school just for Catholics, and are proud to embrace all of our learners and staff from all faith commitments and none, whilst making known to all, the importance of our school mission, and the values of the Gospel. We seek to emulate the example of St. Francis in preaching at all times through our actions and not just our words. Here, pupils are helped to achieve their full potential, through a carefully sequenced, enriching curriculum which develops independence and self-resilience.

Introduction:

We think that the focus of Christian worship in a Catholic school should be on offering God glory, honour, praise, and thankfulness. It is our loving response to God's invitation to establish a connection, expressed in both words and deeds, made possible by the work of Jesus Christ and the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge that all students are required by law to participate in a daily act of worship. The act of worship does not have a set curriculum period and will not be covered by any subject matter, including religious education, in the curriculum. The Governing Body of this school, in cooperation with the school's Executive leadership and the Head of Religious Education, is in charge of planning Collective Worship.

The Role of Collective Worship in Our School's Life:

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 and pastoral activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We aim to continue fostering and developing the daily prayer life of both our pupils and staff. We will accomplish this by guiding them to respond to God in a way that is appropriate for their age, thereby assisting them in becoming aware of God's presence in their lives and of His love for them. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Silent prayer
- Extemporaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action eg drama and music
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are invited to pray before school, in form time, in our liturgical worship as well as before every lesson. Our pupils are invited on retreats and to take part actively in responding to the call of the Gospel in promoting key Catholic Social Teachings such as the common good and the preferential option for the poor. We encourage everyone to pray in their own time and to offer up their work for the greater glory of God.

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 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 and development
- 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'

Principles:

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.
- Invite, where possible, pupils to lead in planning, leading and participating in prayer as a response to God

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small (if appropriate) to personalise the experience
- Be appropriately paced and fitting to the context of the celebration

- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Planning:

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons and liturgical calendar, significant dates such as holy days of obligation and Bishop Douglass' day, the need for the sacrament of reconciliation (Lent and Advent) and the RE Directory.

- Plans will be broadly based on each year group's long term planning for liturgies.
- The focus for most acts of worship will depend on the context of the worship, for a Mass the focus will be the Eucharist, for an assembly, it will be the readings following the liturgical calendar
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission and values of Bishop Douglass
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.
- We teach staff and pupils the skills to facilitate prayer and liturgy through progressive participation and pupil leadership of liturgical planning and worship

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated against the improvement plan to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims 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.

Eucharist:

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Class Masses are offered throughout the year by our school chaplain. The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses

- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time
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This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors

Approved by the Governing Body