

Date: September 2023
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Responsibility: MW/LB/NG

Bishop Challoner School



Spirituality & Collective Worship Policy



Bishop Challoner School SPIRITUALITY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

Bishop Challoner is a Catholic school and welcomes all faiths. While fully respecting the faith of each pupil, the school has no wish to compromise its mission to provide an all-round education to pupils of all backgrounds. Our Mission Statement encompasses what we are about:

Mission Statement

Through faith and a broad education, **Bishop Challoner School** strives to develop and nurture each child's unique talents. To Live, Love and Learn like Christ and fulfil their true potential in an ever changing world.

This mission is to enhance the spiritual, moral and academic development of its pupils in the setting of the school's Catholic tradition. It is part of the school's gift to invite pupils to an experience of this proud tradition. Indeed the school is happy to recognise the warm acceptance by the pupils and their parents of what the school has to offer in this respect. Hence the development of our Spirituality and Collective Worship Policy.

Our objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils, staff and parents to experience a sense of belonging to a faith-filled Christian community and to commit themselves to being of service to others;
- Respect the role of parents as the primary educators of their children;
- Be enthusiastic in imparting knowledge of Catholic faith and traditions, enabling pupils to accept truth freely and develop their own moral conscience based upon Christian values and principles;
- Promote growth and improvement in learning and living, being mindful that we have received 'every good and perfect gift from above' (*James 1:17*) and therefore give praise and thanksgiving to God for all that we have received.

We see the aims of the spiritual development of our school as follows:

- That pupils know that they are spiritual beings created by God;
- That each of us is on a journey of faith;
- That we are all on different journeys;
- That this is a distinctly Catholic school community on its own special journey;
- That we need to celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our own community (school, home and parish);
- That we develop the pupils' self-esteem, self-confidence and their ability to express their inner thoughts in a variety of ways

As a Catholic school one of the most important ways that we strive to achieve these spiritual aims is through our collective worship. 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 a loving relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ.

The nature of collective worship in our school is as follows:

- Prayer and worship is at the heart of the life of the school
- Prayer takes into account the pupils' age and faith development
- Liturgy is interactive and reflective
- Liturgy is 'owned' and frequently led by the pupils
- Liturgy impacts on daily life and behaviour

From this rationale we see the aims of our collective worship as follows:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of the Triune God
- To help pupils to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ
- To positively present prayers and beliefs that come from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church
- To help pupils to understand that they belong to a wider Catholic community with strong links to local parishes and the diocesan community

From these main aims we seek to:

- Reflect on moral and spiritual issues
- Explore our own beliefs
- Reflect on and celebrate life
- Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- Develop a common ethos and shared values
- Enrich religious experience
- Reinforce positive attitudes and behaviour

The principles of planning and delivery of collective worship are as follows:

- To follow a structure that parallels the church's liturgical calendar
- To be flexible to respond to, and change with, situations within school and the wider community
- To develop pupils' skills that enables them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always being recipients
- To develop staff skills at all levels with regard to preparation, organisation and leading collective worship providing suitable resources and training

Just as all children are expected to attend collective worship, we believe that it is important that all staff endeavour to attend as well. By doing this a powerful witness is given to our children and visitors of the principles of community and belonging aforementioned in this policy.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in the Senior School and by the Heads of KS1 and KS2 in the Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory departments and the Head of EYFS. There is close liaison with the School Chaplain and Head of Religious Education. This allows the school to evaluate all we are doing to meet the needs of pupils with regards to our rationale.

Reviewed by: M Wallace/L Bell/N Gordon

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Next Review: September 2024