

Our Lady's Catholic High School

Collective Worship Policy (Prayer and Liturgy)

*'Our Lady's is first and foremost a Catholic school. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognise the unique value of each individual. Everyone at Our Lady's has the right to be treated with respect at all times'.
(from OLCHS Mission Statement)*

Last Review: Autumn Term 2024

Next Review: Autumn Term 2027

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Our Lady's Catholic High School Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) Policy

1. Introduction to Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) in our School

Pope Benedict XVI stated in September 2010 that *“education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for “both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts” (Wis 7:16)”*

Prayer and liturgy at this school goes beyond the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Worship in this school is Christ centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic tradition, reflecting the values of the Gospel.

Prayer and liturgy should be defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils and staff to come together to pray and worship God. It is through these acts of communal worship that we may come to a fuller appreciation of ourselves, and of our relationship with God and others, while allowing us to reflect on what is of value and importance in our lives. All members of our school community have opportunities for prayer and reflection and both sacramental and non sacramental liturgies. The school also offers retreats and away days.

There are many opportunities for the school community (pupils, staff, governors and parents) to share in the liturgical life of the school. Many occasions will be voluntary but encouragement is given to all to participate using their own gifts and talents. Acts of prayer and liturgy occur in year assemblies, morning prayer/reflection, reconciliation services and Eucharistic celebrations.

2. Aim

To nurture an environment in which, and provide opportunities for, the members of our school community to express their belief through organised and collective acts of worship.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 Each school day will begin and end with a prayer with time for grace before meals
- 3.2 The opportunity to attend Mass will be made available every week
- 3.3 The school will provide opportunities to celebrate Holy Days of Obligation

4. Rationale

4.1 Collective Worship is held for the following reasons;

4.1.1 To celebrate our faiths

4.1.2 To provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God

4.1.3 To provide Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic liturgical experiences

4.1.4 To involve everyone in the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy

4.1.5 To reflect upon our needs, hopes and common humanity

4.1.6 To recognise each person's uniqueness and value

4.1.7 To celebrate and educate the whole person, not only academically but morally and spiritually

5. Guidelines

5.1 The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective worship every day in form or an assembly.

5.2 The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective Worship every day at the end of the school day.

5.3 The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective Worship every day before lunch.

5.4 The expectation is that every child will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a form Mass and form assembly.

5.5 To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and morning prayers have been produced. These include suggestions as to how we come together, use of a focus, music and setting. Resources for collective worship each week of the academic year are available on the M drive under collective worship folder and suggestions are emailed to all staff at the start of each week.

All themes are based upon the previous Sunday's Gospel in line with the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church. At set Grace before Meals is used throughout the school and the end of day prayer is on a rota of traditional prayers taken from the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

6. Expectations

6.1 Pupils are expected to:

6.1.1 participate in acts of collective worship in a respectful and reverent way

6.2 Parents are expected to:

6.2.1 promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship

6.3 Teachers ‡ are expected to:

6.3.1 ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church

6.3.2 ensure that there are opportunities for quality Collective Worship to be delivered.

6.3.3 ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Collective Worship

6.4 Principal Teachers are expected to:

6.4.1 ensure that subject teachers end P4 with grace before meals and the the school day with a prayer in line with the rota

6.5 Learning Managers are expected to:

6.5.1 ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of collective worship

6.5.2 monitor the quality of the acts of collective worship in form periods.

6.6 The Senior Leadership Team are expected to:

6.6.1 ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is fully implemented

6.6.2 evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Collective Worship.

6.7 The Governors are expected to;

6.7.1 ensure that Collective Worship is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy.

‡ and the chaplain and any other adult leading acts of worship