

# **St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

This policy operates in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church<sup>1</sup> and our Academy Mission Statement<sup>2</sup>.

This policy was updated in the Summer Term 2018.

<sup>1</sup>The teachings of the Catholic Church are detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church published by the Catholic Truth Society, London, an Official Publisher to The Holy See.

<sup>2</sup>The Academy Mission Statement is located on page 2 of this policy, and is displayed in our academy, and on our website.

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### **Patron Saints**

#### **The Twelve Apostles of Jesus filled with the Fire of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost**

**Peter and Andrew, James and John,  
Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,  
Simon the Zealot and Jude the son of James, and Matthias**

We ask and pray for the guiding and sustaining influence and powerful intercession of these holy saints in the implementation of this policy for our academy.

After the Resurrection of Our Lord from the dead He appeared a number of times to His apostles and the holy women and those who were numbered among His brethren. The reaction of those witnesses was one of awe and amazement which then led them to worship.

On the day of Our Lord's Ascension to Heaven we are told:

"He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into Heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God."

After the Ascension of Our Lord to Heaven, the apostles appointed Matthias to take the place of Judas in their ministry and apostleship and gathered in the upper room with Our Lady and the holy women, and the brethren, (the company was in all about one hundred and twenty) and there for nine days they devoted themselves to prayer and worship of God as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

A mighty wind came from heaven and filled the house where they were gathered, tongues as of fire came to rest on each one of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The apostles began to preach with great courage and boldness and many people were converted to believe in Jesus.

It is said of those who were converted, "They held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers."



# ST. BERNADETTE'S

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

### Mission Statement

**Jesus said: "I am the Light of the World."**

By the Light of Jesus Christ, God reveals to each of us who He is.  
God is Love, and His Love is revealed in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

God's Love is revealed in His Creation, in our beautiful world, in His Holy Catholic Church, in our families, in our friends, and in every human person, and we welcome all in the Holy Name of Jesus.

At St. Bernadette's, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God to each of our families, created in His own image and likeness so as to radiate His Love, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

We believe that every child has been blessed by God's grace to know Him and love Him, and to know of God's infinitely deep and abiding love for each of His children.

We believe that every child has been created to strive for excellence in all aspects of life, and when united in friendship with Jesus, they are empowered to reflect the Light of Christ to the world.

**Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."**

**"I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full."**

**Jesus is the Way**, so let us walk in His footsteps of Love and Friendship, and follow His example of Goodness.

**Jesus is the Truth**, so let us listen to what He says, believe His teachings, and profess His Gospel.

**Jesus is the Life**, so let us live by His commandments to love God, and love our neighbour.

When we do these things, Jesus will help us to lead the life He wants us to have, 'and have it to the full'. Just as Jesus said that He is 'the Cornerstone' on which we should build our whole lives, in the same way, our Cornerstone Values, centred on Christ, provide the firm foundation for all that we do in our academy.

#### Our Cornerstone Values

- 1 **Love** – To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbour as Jesus loves us.
- 2 **Virtue and Goodness** – To grow in virtue, becoming more like Jesus in what we think, say, and do. To be well-behaved and well-mannered; courteous and polite; kind and forgiving.
- 3 **Prayer and Service** – To be friends with Jesus through prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship of God. To live out the Gospel in service of others – family, academy, parish, and the wider community.
- 4 **Radiance** – To enkindle our God-given gifts and talents, so that we may shine like bright stars for all to see.
- 5 **Joy** – To aspire to be happy, cheerful, and healthy; confident yet humble; compassionate and heroic.
- 6 **Wonder** – To be inspired by a spirit of enquiry and wonder, taking delight in creativity and discovery.
- 7 **Excellence** – To strive for excellence, and have high aspirations to work hard and achieve our very best.

Upon entering our academy, children are welcomed into a loving, caring, safe, and nurturing environment, beginning a journey with us through which they will grow and mature, blossom and flourish.

**'Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world.'**

Our academy motto expresses our commitment to excellence in every aspect of academy life.

We help our families to form their children by providing a well-rounded education, full of challenge and rigour; fun and creativity; excitement and wonder.

We believe that every child is unique and special, created by God for a special reason, with a unique mission – a vocation which God is calling them towards – and we believe that God has blessed each child with the character, gifts, and talents to help them succeed and be happy in their mission.

At St. Bernadette's, it is our honour and our passion to help, support, and encourage each child to fulfil their God-given potential, and ready them to contribute positively to society in service of others.

Walking in footsteps of love with Jesus, following the example of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette, may each child come to know of their special place in God's Heart, and when 'Heart speaks unto heart', may each child have the trust and confidence to pray the words of this prayer by Blessed John Henry Newman:

**'God has created me to do Him some definite service.**

**He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.**

**I have my mission.'**



# 1 The Worship due to God

## – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

There is only one Person worthy of our worship and that is Almighty God. In the Person of Jesus Christ God reveals to us who He is, and so we worship Jesus as the Lord of our lives, in our thoughts, words, and actions, in times of prayer, devotion, adoration and in acts of liturgical worship, doing so through the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father.

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

The Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 2 verses 9–11

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains in worship and adoration we acknowledge that God is God, that He is “the Creator and Saviour, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love.” When Jesus spent 40 days in the desert in preparation for his mission to bring the Good News of salvation to the people of Israel, he was tempted by the devil who asked Jesus to worship him, but Jesus replied by repeating the words of God to Moses, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”

To worship God requires a move away from selfish thoughts towards an attitude of humility, and in this we can show our love of God, in our thoughts, in our words and in our actions. There are many examples in the Bible of great humility before God, one of those is the example given to us by the Three Kings – also known as the Wise Men – who travelled great distances to visit Jesus at His birth and worship Him:

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born... When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 2 verses 1–4, 9–11

The apostles do the same after the resurrection, having made their way to the mountain where Jesus had directed them, on appearing to them, the immediately begin to worship Him:

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshipped Him.”

The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 28 verses 16–17

As with Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus, and the shepherds of Bethlehem, and the host of angels who appeared to them to announce the birth, and the three kings who travelled over great distance to visit Jesus, and the apostles and the holy women who witnessed Jesus after His Resurrection from the dead, our response to being in the Presence of Jesus should be one of love and reverence, awe and wonder, leading us to worship Him with the words spoken by the apostle, Saint Thomas, in the upper room:

“My Lord and my God!”

The Gospel according to John, Chapter 20 verse 28

## 2 An Overview of Collective Worship in our academy

We are told that the three kings ‘rejoiced exceedingly with great joy’ as they approached the manger where Jesus was born, and they worshipped Him by falling down on to their knees. It is with this attitude of humility and in this spirit of joy that we seek to offer Collective Worship in our academy.

We can worship God in the silence of our own hearts, and we can worship God when we gather together as a community: in small groups such as the three kings; or in whole academy gatherings following the example of the apostles after Jesus had ascended to Heaven, when they gathered with Mary the mother of Jesus, and the holy women, and the brethren, in the upper room, and there together as a Christian community prayed in Collective Worship of God, and awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. For nine days, the apostles and the whole community of believers (about one hundred and twenty in the company) were recollected in prayer:

“All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer.”

The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 1 verse 14

In the Collective Worship we offer in our academy we gather in both small and large groups, but however small or large our number, we seek to follow the example of the apostles and the Christian brethren in the upper room: to pray ‘with one accord’, to speak as with one voice; to pray as with one heart, open to worship God in love, in joy and in peace, in awe and wonder, in praise and in thanksgiving, in quiet prayer and in vocal prayer, in singing of hymns and in acts of drama, and always with a reverent devotion under guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer takes a number of forms: prayers of adoration, blessing, praise, and thanksgiving, petition and intercession. All of these forms of prayer are experienced in our Collective Worship, as we worship God and offer praise and thanksgiving for the great goodness that God has shown to us in our lives and in the love we receive from those people he has placed in our lives, our families and our friends, our academy community and the fellowship within our parish family, and we offer prayers of petition for our own intentions, and prayers of intercession for those who are dear to us, for those in need, those less fortunate than ourselves, and those who are suffering.

Filled with the Fire of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Saint Peter spoke to the crowds in Jerusalem about Jesus whom they had crucified, but who had risen from the dead, and was now seated at the right hand of God, and those who heard his words were converted to faith in Jesus and gathered together as a Christian community in praise and thanksgiving to worship God.

“And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to Him.” ... So those who receive his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they held steadfastly to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.

And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God for having favour with all the people.”

The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2 verses 38–39, 41–47

As a Catholic academy, and following the example of the early Church, we are passionately committed to making prayer and devotion, liturgy, and worship, central to our way of life as a Christian community, and to do so with great love and reverence for Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, with ‘glad and generous hearts’ in joyful acclamation of the glory of God.

## **Legal Requirements**

We observe the legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship. Prayer is an integral part of the rhythm of the school day and we follow Church Liturgy throughout the year, celebrating feasts, honouring the saints and hearing the Gospel message through the regular reading of scriptures and, where relevant, adaptations and spiritual reflections.

## **The place of Collective Worship in the life of our academy**

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 the 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. Worship in our academy is more than simply the fulfilment of a legal requirement. Worship of God is absolutely intrinsic to life in our academy, forming a foundational part of the rich fabric which comprises our Catholic ethos, centred as it is on Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – exalted by God the Father and bestowed with the Holy Name which is above all other names, and at which every knee shall bow, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – and we warmly encourage every child who enters our academy to active participation in this life-affirming, joyful experience.

### 3 Aims of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship we offer in our academy, in all its varied forms, aims to provide the time, space, and a setting akin to a spiritual haven in which the encounter between God and each child is nurtured and energized, by being open to the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst and the action of God's grace which is open to all when we worship God in spirit and in truth. We strive to make Collective Worship a special time for all pupils and staff:

- To learn and love traditional Catholic prayers;
- To experience different forms of prayer;
  - Prayers of Blessing
  - Prayers of Adoration
  - Prayers of Praise
  - Prayers of Thanksgiving
  - Prayers of Petition
  - Prayers of Intercession
- To develop a capacity in our heart, soul, and mind for:
  - Wonder and Reverence
  - Humility and Holiness
  - Virtue and Goodness
  - Hope and Joy
  - Silence and Listening
  - Empathy and Compassion
  - Recollection and Peace
  - Reflection and Praise
  - Gratitude and Thanksgiving
  - Meditation and Understanding
  - Contemplation and Friendship
- To know and be familiar and confident with responses in liturgy, including the Holy Mass;
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and the reality of God with us;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To explore their own beliefs and the virtue of faith;
- To respond and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich and widen religious experience;
- To grow in understanding of liturgy within the Catholic Tradition
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic Tradition;
- To reinforce positive attitudes;
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at God's presence in the Person of Jesus Christ, and in the work of the Holy Spirit within each person and throughout our whole academy.

# 4 Principles of Collective Worship

**All acts of worship in this academy will:**

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the academy and its Catholic character.
- Link to the Church's Liturgical Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Holy Days, and Ordinary time.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate 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 adapted to the age of the child to take account of the level of maturity for Early Years, and Key Stage 1 children.
- Encourage and give the necessary teacher guidance and support for all pupils, respective of their age and maturity, to independently plan Class Liturgies and whole academy Collective Worship.
- Provide resources for the focal area.
- Be simple and reflective, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of settings.
- Allow and encourage children to be active and enthusiastic participants, be confident with prayers (formal and informal) hymns and, where relevant, help to create Liturgies and acts of worship.

## Organisation of Collective Worship in our academy

Monday	2.30pm Whole academy – Class Collective Worship.
Tuesday	Class prayers
Wednesday	Class prayers
Thursday	Class prayers
Friday	2.30pm Headteacher Assembly / Whole Academy – Class Assembly Celebrating Workers of the Week and Merit Awards

## The Class Teacher in Collective Worship

The class teacher's role is crucial in the provision of high quality planning and delivery support for Collective Worship. The academy supports all teachers, so that they:

- Take account of the age, gender, ethnicity and capability of their pupils;
- Are competent in knowledge and understanding of the seasons and events of the Church's Liturgical calendar;
- Inspire pupils with enthusiasm and be supportive to pupil responses and ideas with creativity;
- Use a variety of methods which enable all pupils to be confident to deliver their Collective Worship effectively;
- Manage pupils well and insist on high standards of behaviour, being reflective when delivering a Collective Worship, in class or whole academy;
- Use time, support staff, other adults and resources, including ICT, where appropriate;
- Every Collective Worship to have a focal area prepared by the children, begin with the sign of the cross a candle and use of music where appropriate, to create a uniqueness to this core and unique opportunity and special time of gathering together.

## **The pupils in Collective Worship**

The academy supports pupils, so that they:

- Listen attentively;
- Acquire new knowledge of the Church's Liturgical Year and the associated Liturgical Colours;
- Develop creative ideas for focal areas;
- Increase their understanding of use of Scripture and prayer;
- Work collaboratively;
- Show their creativity, interest and enthusiasm in their participation of Collective Worship
- Are able to sustain concentration of one another and awareness during whole academy Collective Worship;
- Can demonstrate in the planning of Collective Worship that they understand what they are doing, how valuable their ideas and thoughts are, and ways they can grow in their reflective school life of worship.

## **Focal Area**

- Growth of knowledge using Liturgical colours throughout the year;
- Range of liturgical coloured fabrics;
- Use of variety of quality resources;
- Same storage containers throughout the academy for Collective Worship in all classrooms to demonstrate the value of its importance and unique opportunities;
- Photographic prompts of focal areas to assist with ideas to help pupils create their own ideas for focal areas.

## **Planning, Content, and Delivery of Collective Worship**

- Follows a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, and the 'Come And See' curriculum;
- This involves consultation with appropriate parties and reference to the academy's Mission Statement and policies;
- It is flexible to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community;
- Develops in pupils the skills that enable them to plan, prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Collective Worship termly programme using pupil voice for themes;
- Half-termly collective worship delivered by the chaplaincy team;
- During the coming year 2017–2018 our chaplaincy team to help and assist classes setting up their focal areas for collective worship and further support for children.

## **Recording**

Collective Worship scripts are in the RE Collective Worship file located in a cupboard in our Main Hall, with the RE resources and photographic evidence from classes, showing children leading Collective Worship. Staff also have copies available of their Collective Worship scripts. Photographic and written evidence may also be found in children's RE books, when planning a Collective Worship with a class and Collective/Liturgy Portfolios. We have evaluated the way we record Collective Worship and have recently started to use a new format, where children are more involved in the planning of this. This will be evaluated in staff inset in the Spring Term to assess the impact.



## Monitoring and Evaluation

The academy's provision of worship will be evaluated regularly to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in creativity skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

The Religious Education Subject Leader, the Headteacher and the RE Governor will be responsible for this, taking into account pupils' responses from their reflections of Collective Worship, through the pupil voice.

## Resources

- The academy recognises that the most valuable classroom resource is the class teacher;
- The work of other adults, including TA's who work in a range of support programmes should be carefully planned by the teacher in consultation with those adults;
- RE resources for the academy are located in the main hall, with Collective Worship ideas and a file of acetate images;
- A Religious Education area is available in the library, with a wide selection of books for all staff and pupils;
- Candles are located in a cupboard in the hall, Artefacts, fabrics, see the RE Subject Leader;
- A Mass Box is brought to the academy by our parish priest, Monsignor Thomas McGovern;
- Ideas for Assemblies, Collective Worship located in the hall cupboards, with RE resources in the Main Hall or see the RE Subject Leader;
- Every class has a set of Collective Worship boxes and resources to create focal areas and items for Collective Worship. These boxes containing a variety of resources, fabrics and a focus of worship which reflects the Liturgical Calendar/suggestion from children on themes they feel are important and related to 'Come And See' Topics, along with 'Let us pray' resources, which are on the shared area.

## Training

- The RE Subject Leader plans time with new staff, assists in planning and organising Collective Worship initially;
- All staff are encouraged to take full advantage of RE training opportunities to develop their confidence and update their expertise, through academy and diocesan based INSET;
- A record of training and inset provision is maintained by the RE Subject Leader within the academy RE SEF document.

## Parents

We aim to involve parents directly in the life of the academy and thus in the development of children's skills, knowledge and understanding in RE, regarding Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship programme for each term is uploaded on to our academy website for parent/carer information. This also informs parents and carers of forthcoming topics, special dates, and Holy Days, during the Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms.

## 5 Leadership

The Collective Worship Leader's role will include the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that the Collective Worship policy document reflects the requirements of the Diocese of Nottingham and Religious Education curriculum and the needs and ethos of the academy;
- To review and update the Collective Worship policy document every two years;
- To provide leadership and guidance in the area of Collective Worship, and to support staff as required;
- To be actively involved in whole-academy inset for further developments for Collective Worship;
- To monitor delivery of Collective Worship;
- To monitor and evaluate teaching delivery against requirements of NRCDES lesson observation;
- To monitor pupil's written evaluations from Class Collective Worship (half-termly);
- To lead staff meetings and training sessions on issues to the implementation of further improvements for Collective Worship throughout the academy;
- To attend relevant training and Subject Leader meetings to update knowledge, and to disseminate advice and current information to staff;
- To undertake an audit and evaluation of Collective Worship on an annual basis;
- To maintain, evaluate and assess the resource base for Collective Worship, including strategic budgetary planning and identification of future resource needs;
- To promote parental and governor interest in Collective Worship;
- To liaise with our secondary academy link, to ensure progression of our chaplaincy team and set new training dates for the new replacement chaplaincy team, when the pupils move onto their secondary schools.

## Collective Worship

Key Stage 2 pupils give ideas for Collective Worship for the following term. These go on a weekly class rota, and have links to 'Come And See' themes, Holy Days, Saints' Days, and celebratory events. Pupils help with ideas and suggestions to plan, organise and deliver Collective Worship on a weekly basis with guidance from their class teachers. We are currently developing the creativity of our Collective Worship and pupil independence throughout KS1 and KS2. This will have a positive impact on how actively involved the children become in all areas of Collective Worship.

## Health and Safety in regard to Collective Worship, Class and Whole School Liturgies

As part of Collective Worship, there may be occasions when candles are lit. The responsibility of lighting candles and lighting resources remain with the adult/teacher in charge of Collective Worship on the day it is being delivered, in class or whole academy. All health and safety precautions should be adhered to at all times.

## Assemblies

There is a class rota in place for assemblies throughout the academy during the year. The assemblies are related to the on-going R.E. topic at the time and depending on the year group, these display variable levels of a theme, involving children at all levels. Assemblies are also devoted to saints and feast days during a particular week, special events taking place throughout the country and the world. Assembly Observations take place during the Autumn/Spring and Summer Term, notes taken, feed back given to teachers. Pupils are always praised for their efforts and valuable contributions, records can be found with RE resources in the library.

## Voluntary Worship and Retreat

- Rosary - in the Library;
- November - prayers for the Holy Souls;
- Travelling Crib – Advent prayers;
- Lent – Stations of the Cross;
- May – devotions to Mary, our Mother; Travelling Rosary;
- Training for staff of Reflection;
- Prayer Group;
- Chaplaincy Team – meet weekly Chaplaincy Team Leader – Miss Ellie Clarke

Subject Leader for Collective Worship:  
Mrs Amanda Galvin

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and Governors. As a Voluntary Catholic Academy, the responsibility for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

## Supporting documents

The following school documents should be consulted to support the Collective Worship policy:

Religious Education Policy  
RSE Policy  
Assessment, Recording, and Reporting Policy  
SEND Policy  
Equal Opportunities Policy  
Safeguarding Policy  
Continued Professional Development Policy

## Policy Review

The Collective Worship Policy should be reviewed and updated every two years.  
Date of next review: Summer Term 2020