



Collective Worship Policy

Runnymede St Edward's School: Mission Statement 'Inspire, Challenge, Support through Faith'

Children's Mission:

Into your hands Lord, we put each day
all that we do and all that we say

Child Protection Statement:

Runnymede St Edward's School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting children's welfare and expects all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment and maintain a vigilant and safe environment. Everyone has a responsibility to act without delay to protect children by reporting anything that might suggest a child is being abused or neglected. It is our willingness to work safely and challenge inappropriate behaviours that underpins this commitment. The school seeks to work in partnership with families and other agencies to improve the outcomes for children who are vulnerable or in need.

Runnymede St Edward's School follows guidelines laid down by the **Liverpool Safeguarding Children Board** (LSCB: www.liverpoolscb.org 2015) and **Keeping Children Safe in Education** (www.gov.uk 2015)

School Aims:

Faith

To encourage and foster the spiritual growth of all and to make prayer an integral and enjoyable experience in our daily life.

Individual Opportunities for Learning and Growth

To provide experiences that broaden, enrich and extend the skills, talents and values of each member of the school community. We are an inclusive school and pupils with additional needs or for whom English is an additional Language are fully supported to enable them to achieve their potential.

Relationships

To provide a safe, caring and welcoming environment within which all are treated with respect, courtesy and kindness. Runnymede St Edward's School upholds British values and encourages respect for all.

School and Wider Community

To foster a spirit of co-operation and friendship between home, school and the wider community.

Runnymede St Edward's School is built on the tradition of our founders, the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Based on their vision, Runnymede is a place in which individuals can develop fully, contributing as happy and caring members of a school community. Children's unique talents are valued, and they learn to live as well-mannered, self-disciplined and confident individuals.

For a detailed School Mission Statement please refer to the Mission Statement page of our website

Reviewed: Autumn 2017

Review date: Autumn 2019

Runnymede St Edward's School
Collective Worship Policy

Runnymede St Edward's School, we aim to encourage and foster the spiritual growth of all and make prayer an integral and enjoyable experience in our daily life. We give glory to God and thank God for the gifts we have been given. We offer all we are to God and through the teaching of the Gospels to remember how we live out God's love for us. In our worship, we are guided by the principles stated in "Directory for Masses with Children"

In our approach to Collective Worship, we endeavour to take into account the religious and educational needs of all within the school:

Adults and children:-

- who form part of the worshipping community in church.
- for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- of other Christian tradition.
- from other faith backgrounds.

Collective worship in Runnymede St. Edward's is an educational and spiritual activity or experience where all can contribute, give and be sustained.

This policy statement is based upon our School's Mission Statement. Collective Worship is recognised and valued as a natural and essential part of our daily routine. It is more than a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic Education, the inspiration and devotion of Blessed Edmund Rice, and of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Our Collective Worship, whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment is Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the church and having Christ at its heart.

Aims

Collective Worship aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by:-

- providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- developing a community spirit.

- promoting and encouraging a common ethos, and sharing values and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- providing opportunities to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues.
- building a firm foundation of Liturgy and Catholic prayers.
- providing an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- ensuring pupils have the opportunity to explore their own beliefs.
- respecting and celebrating life.
- enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging.
- promoting each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

Objectives

To fulfil these aims, Runnymede St Edward's will provide opportunities for our community to:-

- celebrate life and learning
- give worth to
- wonder at
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- pray together
- take part in worship through prayer, drama and song
- follow the example Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- explore the child's own experiences by helping each individual to EXPLORE, REVEAL & RESPOND with regard to all acts of collective worship.

Collective Worship

Who

At Runnymede, St Edward's, the RE Coordinator and RE Governor have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher and staff. The Headteacher must ensure provision of collective worship on a daily basis for each child.

Teachers enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents/Carers and governors are often invited to participate in acts of Collective Worship at various times through the year.

Collective Worship

Where

In the classroom – this room is where our children spend most of their time; therefore it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and members of staff.

Here a focus for worship is as a cross and /or a focus table based on a Come and See topic, time of the year or relevant theme. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in the preparation.

In the Ley Hall or Bryson Hall – the children, staff, parents/carers, governors, come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the RE Room- this provides a quiet, intimate atmosphere for reflective and meditative prayer or scripture stories.

In the open – we have pleasant grounds outside to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In church- Runnymede is not attached to a parish. Our pupils attend Mass at various parishes, including the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, where several of our pupils are choristers. We have links with local parishes and have had our carol service at St Paul's, West Derby and at the Cathedral.

Collective Worship

When

We assemble in a variety of groups including class groups, phase or key stage groups or whole school.

We aim to keep the class and phase group celebrations an appropriate length of time for the age of the child. (5-6 minutes for FS and KS1 and 7-10 minutes for KS2)

Special whole school celebrations may be longer.

We use the gather, listen, respond and go forth format.

Whole School Collective Worship

Headteacher Assemblies

When appropriate assemblies begin with an act of collective worship and then continue with another area of focus and celebration. On a weekly basis there is one Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

The Headteacher/SMT leads these assemblies.

Special Collective Worship

On special occasions, the whole school will gather to celebrate a particular feast or event. Classes prepare and lead collective worships on a rota through the year.

Welcome collective worship,

Harvest

CAFOD

St Edward- feast day

All Saints

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox

Advent

Christingle

Christmas

Ash Wednesday

Holy Week

Easter

Blessed Edmund Rice

SS Peter and Paul

Leavers' Collective Worship.

Phase Group Collective Worships

These take place weekly.

Themes are often based upon the Come and See topics, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects and global, national or local events.

Classes prepare and lead the collective worship at all levels with the appropriate input from the class teacher. Parents/carers family friends and governors are invited during the year.

Class Worship

For the rest of the week, the class is the focus for worship. Themes are many and varied, including:

- relating to work done in the Come and See programme
- linking to the appropriate Liturgical season
- linking to the time of day-morning, lunch, evening.
- linking to other celebrations
- developing themes or ideas suggested by children or staff
- Address the needs of the children (loss, bereavement, celebration etc.)
- Be prompted by aspects of the global dimension or news items
- Respond week in Come and See- celebrating the end of the topic.

The teacher may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

Acts of collective worship will always include an appropriate reference from scripture

Children with Additional Needs

The whole school approach to Collective Worship is inclusive, the individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

Continuity and Progression

The content and delivery of Collective Worship allows for the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding. The uniqueness of each child is noted. Much of the worship is governed by the themes in the Come and See programme. This ensures progression and continuity, as both these aspects of a child's learning are an integral part of Come and See. The themes covered encompass a structured, well planned programme.

Cross Curricular

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience. It includes many areas of the curriculum and care is taken to fulfil our mission to challenge, inspire and support. Hence, our whole curriculum is celebrated, as we believe that every aspect of school life helps to develop the child's potential as an individual.

Evaluation and Assessment

Collective Worship is evaluated with reference to a variety of possible Collective Worship experiences. Records are also maintained through display, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers and reflections.

Prayer

Prayer is the raising up of the heart and mind to God.

All teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child's school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Collective Worship. Children gather together for prayer at the start and end of the day and also before mealtimes, we also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises.

In Early Years, teachers will recognise and nurture the beginnings of prayer and seek to create an environment where this is fostered and developed.

Class teachers are encouraged to choose prayers, which they think are most suitable for their children's age. We also recognise that certain prayers form part of the culture and tradition of the Catholic faith and as such we are extending the range of prayers pupils know and understand as outlined below:-

Foundation Stage

Sign of the cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Simple responses at Mass
Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)
Simple litanies of thanks and praise.
Prayerful reflection on the day
Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath
Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Key Stage 1

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father
Morning Offering
Grace at Meals
Act of Sorrow
Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, Prayers of Intercession, Children's Eucharistic Prayer II)
Prayers used at Baptism
Prayer for Lent

Key Stage 2

I confess
Angelus
Benedictus (Luke; 1:67-79)
Magnificat (Luke; 1:46-55)
Eternal rest
Act of Contrition
The Mysteries of the Rosary
Stations of the Cross
Prayers at Mass: Penitential rite
Glory to God (Gloria)
Offertory prayers
Holy holy, holy
Lamb of God
Rite of dismissal
Litany of the Saints
Prayers used for sacramental rites
Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts
Funeral Mass prayers
Blessing and giving of ashes

Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to make up their own prayers, either as individuals, group or whole class.

Teachers use reflective music in order to create an appropriate atmosphere. Each class is also provided with a range of resources for their specific focus area for worship within the class. The prayers above have been put into a booklet.

Sacramental Celebration/Liturgy

Many of our Liturgical services are sacramental thus reflecting a deepening of the sacramental nature of our school.

Services take place in order to celebrate:

The Liturgical Year

- Advent/Christmas
- Receiving Ashes
- Lent/Holy Week
- Easter
- Feast of St. Edward
- Holy days of Obligation- E.g. All Saints
- Harvest Festival
- Pentecost

When Mass is celebrated in school, pupils lead the Mass readings, which are taken from the Children's Lectionary, the first reading, psalm and bidding prayers. They can contribute with singing and instrumental playing, movement and drama.

Through the wide experiences of Collective Worship we encourage our children to develop attitudes of praise and reverence.

We allow their natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised and developed. In all our work in this area, we seek to proclaim the Christian message and to live it alongside our children, their families and all in our school community.

Conclusion

Collective Worship at Runnymede St Edward's, provides opportunities for pupils and staff and wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our faith journey.

We firmly believe that worship is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.