

'SAFER SCHOOL, SAFER CULTURE'



# **Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Staff responsible:	Brendan Kelly-Ince
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# Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

***“We aim...to be a welcoming and inclusive community that demonstrates the love of God to all we meet, through our words and actions...and through... Collective Worship, assemblies, curriculum, policies and a daily life that reflect the Gospel values.”***

**SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

### RATIONALE

Collective Worship at our school aims to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together in community to worship God and to respond to the invitation from God to be in relationship with Him. Collective Worship reflects the traditions of our Church, taking into account the spiritual 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, faith communities or none.

Collective Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and is an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. We are proudly catholic in both senses of the word. Everyone in our community is invited to contribute to it and gain from it, regardless of level of belief and commitment.

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. In accordance with the 1988 Education Act and the DfEE Circular 1/94, Collective Worship at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together as a community through daily prayer in the classroom, through participation in weekly assemblies and through other liturgical celebrations. Furthermore, through Collective Worship we are able to encourage pupils and staff to reinforce positive attitudes they may have within their

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community. We also highlight and try to change negative attitudes within our society to encourage a common ethos and shared values amongst all.

### **THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT CARDINAL HEENAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

- To reflect upon the mystery that is God.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the beliefs and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development with specific reference to the Catholic tradition.
- To respond to life's challenges, celebrate life's wonders and comfort and console at times of difficulty.
- To celebrate the richness and diversity of our God given creation and the responsibilities we have for its stewardship.
- To give opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer.
- To explore, reflect on, express, affirm, or challenge commonly accepted personal and social values and individually held beliefs.
- To express our faith as a Christian community thus reinforcing the sense of belonging, the development of community spirit, the promotion of a common ethos and the reinforcement of positive attitudes.
- To provide staff and pupils with opportunities to worship God hence enabling individual spiritual moral development.
- To offer pupils the opportunity to prepare themselves for challenges in their adult life.

### **TO FULFIL THE ABOVE AIMS WE WILL:**

- Ensure the Act of Worship is seen as part of the total curriculum, an integral part of the life of the school and seen to be important.
- Adopt an approach that is based on educational principles which aid the spiritual development of individuals. Therefore, the form, shape and content will be educational.
- Respect the integrity of the individual, give the opportunity to participate creatively and encourage each to make an individual response to a shared experience.
- Build up accessible resource materials for use in assemblies and the daily act of worship.
- Endeavour to provide a physical environment that is conducive to the above.
- Involve a wider combination of staff, pupils and relevant members of the community in assemblies.
- Provide an opportunity to review Collective Worship.
- Provide regular training for staff and students.

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### **ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- The Act of Worship is a daily event – each year group is assigned a specific day of the week for assembly.
- The content of Collective Worship within assemblies is determined by the theme of that week in consultation with the Head of Year/ Senior Management/Chaplain (Collective Worship resources are distributed to all) although topical events, seasonal events and customs are addressed when appropriate.
- A variety of approaches are used within assembly e.g. poetry, music, scripture readings, drama, prayers, pictures, video clips, power point presentations, visiting speakers and personal testimony.
- Prayers, reflections, factual events and stories are used during form time, based on the Collective Worship pack provided by the Chaplain and additional electronic resources are provided and continually updated and reviewed. Resources are created by the Chaplain, students and staff.
- Celebrations during Advent and Lent take place and involve students, staff, parents, governors and people from the local Pastoral Area.
- A Mass takes place on a Wednesday afternoon each half term in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form building, celebrated jointly with our sister school Broughton Hall. All staff and students are welcome and governors attend when they can.
- Services are celebrated in the Chapel on Holy Days of Obligation when appropriate and during Advent and Lent and Mass is celebrated if it is possible.
- Retreats are offered to KS3 and encouragement and support is provided for KS4 and KS5 students to take part in the Archdiocesan retreats run by the "Animate" team and the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- The school runs the "Faith in Action" award scheme which is open to all students.
- The Chaplaincy team have regular meetings which take on different themes and are used to help review various aspects of the Catholic life of the school. For example, the school prayer, the Mission Statement etc.
- Special acts of Collective Worship take place at Christmas and Easter for all pupils in extended assemblies.
- Every Wednesday morning from 8am – 8.15am in the chapel a reflection is shared by a staff member. This is open to students and staff.

### **THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The planning and content of Collective Worship is co-ordinated and produced by the Chaplain in conjunction with students, staff and governors. This content and its delivery includes, amongst other things:

- Day to day spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;

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- Religious festivals, festivals, special days;
- Cross curricular activities;
- Annual events/anniversaries;
- Aspects of the school curriculum;
- The celebration of pupil achievements;
- The inclusion of a variety of visiting speakers.