



**PADRE PIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG PADRE PIO**

Whole School Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement.

'A Catholic family where we pray and learn in peace with each other. Together we take the message of Jesus to the world.'

We are a very proud Welsh Catholic Primary School where the teachings of Jesus are the foundation for all areas of school life and form the basis for life long learning.

The Nature of Collective Worship.

In our Catholic primary school, collective worship is central to our identity and mission. It is a sacred time where our school community gathers to give glory, honour, praise, and thanks to God. Worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. It is intended that Collective worship nurtures spiritual growth, strengthens community bonds, and affirms our Catholic ethos for all pupils (and staff)

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge and fully adhere to the legal requirement that all pupils must participate in a daily act of worship*. This may take place at any time during the school day and can be delivered in a variety of formats, including whole-school worship, age-specific acts of worship, or class-based worship. Each act of worship is rooted in our Catholic ethos and offers meaningful opportunities for prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under current regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as in any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body, following consultation with the Acting Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School.

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 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 this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship.

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character

- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. **
- Celebrations will:
 - be short and appropriately paced
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
 - Be led by pupils wherever possible (Part of this years Action Plan)
 - Be interactive, wherever possible

Organisation

In Padre Pio Catholic Primary School, a typical week acts of worship will follow this timetable:

Monday	Whole School (Y1-Y6) - Linked to the Gospel Reading
Tuesday	Class based Act of Worship
Wednesday	Praise and Worship through singing (Years 2-6) Class Act of Worship - Year 1 and Reception
Thursday	Separate Phase Acts of Worship (Led by class teachers on a rota)
Friday	Whole School 'Praise' Assembly All Year Groups

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a clear structure, with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, the Jesuit Pupil Profile, significant dates (including class saints' feast days), and the school curriculum. Scripture is the central focus in most acts of worship.
- In consultation with appropriate stakeholders and with reference to the school's aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing circumstances within the school and the wider community.
- To develop pupils' skills in preparing, organising, and leading worship, moving beyond passive participation to meaningful and active involvement.

The format for every form of Collective Worship within our school will be:

- ❖ **Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Word** - every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible or lectionary
- ❖ **Action (Respond)** - The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Mission (Go Forth)** - Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Recording

Collective Worship is/will be regularly recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources (This is not required for every AoW- only sample AoW need to be recorded for monitoring/evidence keeping)
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation (From 2025/26)

Moving forward, at least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Leaders will carry out Listening to Learners activities to gauge pupils views on Collective worship provision

Resources

Resources for Prayer and worship will be audited in December, 2025 - and added to this policy

Retreats

Pupils in Year 6 regularly participate in a day's retreat to Belmont Abbey (Linked with Cluster schools). This provides time for personal reflection and spiritual growth before they leave for High School.

School Mass

As the Mass is the centre of liturgical worship in the Catholic Church, it holds a central place in the life of our school. Wherever possible, pupils are actively involved in the planning and celebration of the Mass. Masses are organised in collaboration with our Parish Priest and take place both in school and at church.

On feast days, at the beginning and end of the school year, and at key points in the liturgical calendar (e.g. Advent and Easter), the whole school community gathers to

celebrate Mass together. Parents and members of the parish community are always warmly welcomed to join us in these celebrations.

Christian Meditation

Each class meditates daily. They have a period of silent reflection where they spend time with God

Examen Prayer

The Examen is a simple, reflective prayer that helps our pupils become more aware of God's presence in their daily lives. Rooted in the tradition of St Ignatius of Loyola, it encourages them to pause, reflect, and grow in gratitude and self-awareness. In our school, the Examen is introduced in an age-appropriate way and may be used during Collective Worship or classroom prayer times.

Prayer Spaces

The Crucifix is displayed prominently in each classroom and in the school hall. Within each classroom there is a prayer focus to inspire spiritual reflection.

Role of our Parish Priest.

Canon Paul regularly visits school to support our pupils in their faith formation and religious education. As a leader of the community of faith and in collaboration with school staff, Canon Paul plays a central role in passing on the Church's teachings and nurturing what Pope Benedict XVI describes as "the spiritual dimension of every young person".

The Lead for Prayer and Worship.

The Lead member of staff for Prayer and Worship is Miss. Nicola Way.

Policy Monitoring and Review.

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Worship Lead and Acting Head Teacher and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors (Catholic Life Committee) every two years.

*** Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.**

**** Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.**

Monitoring and Review	
Policy	Collective Worship
Created on	29 th September 2025
Last updated on	N/A
To be presented to	Catholic Life Committee – October 25
Adopted by Full Governing Body on	November 2025
Scheduled review date	September 2027
Acting Head teacher's signature and date	
Chair of Governor's signature and date	