

RYDES HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

C22 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



RYDES HILL
PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

CHILDREN'S MISSION STATEMENT

Think deeply, live wisely, love generously

MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ Rydes Hill Preparatory School and Nursery is a Catholic school where children learn how to live in loving relationship with God and each other.
- ❖ Christian virtues of love and justice, faith and courage, hope and perseverance are fostered.
- ❖ Pupils and staff comprise individuals of different faiths and beliefs but the Rydes Hill community aspires to unity within the life of the school based on shared moral values.
- ❖ The importance placed on the development of individual talents is at the heart of what school stands for and all are encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be.

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Reviewed By :	Cate Rowson – Deputy Head (Academic)	8 th December 2020
Approved By :	Sarah Norville - Headmistress	2 nd September 2021
Governor Review By :	Not required	

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Revision History

Revision	Paragraph Number	Revision
December 2019		New

Terms, Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Term, Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
EYFS	Early Years Framework Setting
PSHCE	Personal Social Health Citizenship Economic Education
RE	Religious Education
SLT	Senior Leadership Team (consists of Headmistress, Deputy Head (Academic), Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Bursar

Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent

This policy applies to the whole school including EYFS.

1. We believe that Collective Worship at Rydes Hill School aims to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff to do the following: contemplate something of the mystery of God; reflect on spiritual & moral issues; explore their own beliefs; respond to & celebrate life; experience a sense of belonging & develop community spirit; develop a common ethos & shared values; develop the skills of reverence; contemplation; reflection; interpretation; empathy; meditation.
2. It is also an opportunity for all to enrich their 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.

Legal Requirements

3. We acknowledge the legal requirement (Education Reform Act 1988) that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the School day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. We support the right of parents to withdraw their child from any part of Collective Worship.

The Nature of Collective Worship

4. In keeping with our Mission Statements above, we believe that Christian worship in a Catholic School should be focused on giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the life of our School

5. Prayer is fundamental to any relationship with God as the on-going conversation that nourishes and sustains it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers many examples of both individual and collective liturgical prayer; likewise, in school, a daily act of worship for all pupils can take different forms – at any time of the school day, as a single act for all

pupils in a Key Stage, or separate acts in smaller class or year groups. Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities, though they may sometimes form part of the same gathering.

- We endorse the view 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
6. It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic ethos of our School.

Prayers

7. Prayers will be said during daily morning registration, before lunch and at the end of the School day; weekly staff briefings; termly Staff INSET meetings; weekly Senior Leadership Meetings; regular Governors' Committee meetings; at the start of other formal school events e.g. Prize Giving. They will also be said at the weekly Parents Prayer Group.

Assemblies

8. During the course of a normal school year, each child from Kindergarten Year to Form One will have the opportunity to prepare and deliver an Assembly. Parents from the class are invited to attend.

Eucharist

9. The whole school community is able to celebrate Mass in St. Mary's Church at which one of the priests from the Guildford parish team presides. Eucharist celebrations take place at the beginning and end of each term for all pupils. We celebrate Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast Days e.g. Founder's Day which is St. Patrick's Day on 19th March. We have a Mass for Advent and for Lent. Other special occasions are celebrated e.g. all in Lower Preparatory or above who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to attend a celebratory Mass in their First Communion Dresses. Parents are invited and the children are presented with a gift by the Headmistress.
10. Each form in the Preparatory Department has Mass celebrated in the classroom to which parents are invited.

Planning & Delivery of Collective Worship

11. Monday's Whole School Collective Worship, led by the Headmistress or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, is planned following a weekly theme based on the previous Sunday's Gospel reading.
12. We hold Sing Praise collective worship with each Key Stage separately where we respond to scripture in song led by the Head of Music and Head of RE.
13. On Fridays, collective worship forms part of our celebration of achievement assembly.
14. Class teachers prepare collective worship with their class once a week using either the previous Sunday's Gospel as Scripture or the reading of the day and finding ways to respond with their class either through role play, song, meditation or petitionary prayer.
15. Classes also work together to prepare and participate in collective worship. Form One girls take turns to work in small groups to prepare collective worship for the Kindergarten children. They choose the themes either based on the liturgical season, a response to world or national events, or reflecting the work the children have done in RE or PSHCE lessons. Lower Preparatory and Upper Transition children worship together as do Middle Preparatory and Higher Preparatory with the Chaplaincy Team members being responsible for preparation and planning.
16. The format for Collective Worship in our School is:
 - **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
 - **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre on 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.
 - **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 (petitionary prayers)
 - **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

17. Collective Worship is recorded:
 - On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
 - Through displays, prayers, collections of pupil's contributions, photographs, etc.

Timetable for Collective Worship

Year Group	Nursery	Kindy	Lower Trans	Upper Trans	Lower Prep	Middle Prep	Higher Prep	Form One
Monday		Whole School Collective Worship led by Mrs Norville						
Tuesday		Sing Praise led by Mrs Flude and Mrs Hudson		Collective Worship		Collective Worship		Collective Worship
Wednesday		Collective worship	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Collective worship	Collective worship	Collective Worship
Thursday		Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Sing Praise led by Mrs Flude				
Friday		Celebration Assembly led by Mrs Norville or a member of SLT						

Monitoring & Evaluation

18. The School's provision of worship is evaluated each year by the Governor with responsibility for Chaplaincy 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.

Resources

19. Children's Bibles and prayer table resources are kept in each class including cloths in the colours of the Liturgical Year; a variety of objects and artefacts. Each class will have folders containing resources for the four parts of the collective worship act. Resources are kept in the RE cupboard in the Resources Room. Posters, books and religious artefacts are also kept in the RE cupboard.

20. The Head of RE is always ready and happy to assist with any others that may be required for a particular reason.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

21. Children are given a number of opportunities to participate voluntarily in worship. During Lent, each class is invited to share in prayer groups held in the Library. Children are also invited to participate in Stations of the Cross which have been prepared as part of Forest School Sessions.
22. During the month of May, children are invited to offer prayers of intercession to Our Lady by joining the Rosary Club on Our Lady's Lawn.
23. We also participate in Deanery Retreat Day with local Catholic Schools and our Higher Preparatory girls attend a retreat at Farnborough Hill.

Special Educational Needs

24. It is the responsibility of each Form teacher to ensure that every child can participate in acts of Collective Worship to the best of their ability. Further information is available in our P19 (ISI 17a) Disability, Inclusion, SEN & Learning Support Policy.

The role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

25. The Head of RE is the co-ordinator for Collective Worship, and is responsible for helping the Head to formulate a written policy for Collective Worship; for ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship; for ensuring Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils; to ensure that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it; to organise themes for Worship.
26. The Head of RE also communicates to members of the School Community the significance and contents of Acts of Collective Worship; attends appropriate INSET and reports back to staff; reports annually to the Governor with responsibility for Chaplaincy regarding matters of concern and development; acts as a consultant to colleagues; encourages positive attitudes towards Collective Worship; informs newly appointed colleagues of School Policy towards Collective Worship; communicates with parents and the parish where appropriate; liaises with the parish priest; liaises with other Chaplains and School Co-ordinators; liaises with the Diocesan RE Centre and St. Philip Howard Centre; evaluates existing resources and purchases new ones when required.

Provision of Information

27. This policy is made available to all school staff via the internal school network and to pupils, parents and any other interested party via the school website. A printed copy of this policy may also be found in the School Staff Room.