



St Richard Reynolds Catholic College

Policy: Prayer & Worship

Date of publication: November 2022

Date of approval by Governing Body: November 2022

Date of next review: November 2023

Mission Statement

St Richard Reynolds is a Catholic community rooted in the love of Christ in which we seek to help each other to become the person whom God has created us to be; and where children come first and are loved, listened to, challenged and inspired.

We do this by:

- aiming for excellence in every area of our learning
- showing love and care for each other
- responding to the call of God in prayer
- committing ourselves to justice and service

We are called to follow the imperative of the College motto 'See the good things of the Lord' in each other, in our academic studies, in our appreciation of the world around us and in our own God-given gifts and talents.

With God's help, we strive to be a community where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are evident in our daily lives: love, peace, faithfulness, joy, goodness, gentleness, patience, self-control and kindness.

Introduction

As a Catholic College collective worship plays a fundamental part of daily school life and enables us all to join as one in prayer and worship.

When children join in Reception our intention is that they stay with us until the end of the secondary education: 14 of their most formative years. Children and their families are part of our college community in which the teachings of Christ are central to daily life. The ethos of the college and the values it cherishes, together with home and parish life, will have considerable influence on each child.

We are mindful of the responsibility this influence brings and it is our intention that over their fourteen-year journey:

- We teach the truths of our faith and reflect the traditions of the Catholic Church.

- We nurture the spiritual life of the children through example, prayer, liturgy, and the sacraments.
- We help our children grow in confidence and self-esteem.

As a Catholic College, prayer and worship plays a fundamental part of daily school life and enables us all to join as one in prayer and worship. Religious education in the school is in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church; and Religious worship is in accordance with its rites and practices. At all times the College serves as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The whole school community, staff, and pupils, are fully involved in the preparation and celebration of prayer and worship. Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We believe that St Richard Reynolds Catholic College is special because of the sense of community, and the relationships between teachers and students. Being part of this team engenders respect and a love of teaching and learning, celebrating each individual for their talents and becoming the person God has created us to be.

Catholic Life at SRRCC is central to the life of the school and a feature of every school action and celebration. Acts of Collective Worship, therefore, are embedded within this and are inclusive, educational, and spiritual.

Statutory Duty of School

The College is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily Collective Worship, after consulting with the Governing Body. Daily Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the ages and abilities of the students. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Principal.

Definition of Prayer and Worship

The term 'worship' is not defined in the 1998 Act. At our College we see Prayer and Worship as being a distinctive time during which our College names and celebrates God's presence in our lives in accordance with our Catholic faith. It is giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God; with reflecting upon and responding to His word with Him and in being witnesses to this through our own lives. Prayer and Worship should be pertinent to pupils' experience, involving them as participants and nurturing a sense of community within the school. In line with DfE/OFSTED guidance, we aim to support pupils with different religious beliefs in their prayer rituals. Our Chapel is open to all students and staff. Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into practice with the duty to serve echoed in the college motto of "Videte bona Domini" (See the good things of the Lord). The motto encourages us to look at the good things God has given us. It offers all pupils the opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Principles of Prayer Worship

Collective Worship aims to be memorable and enjoyable. It is designed to actively engage students. It is resourced and well planned with the promotion of Christian values being at its heart. It is also flexible, able to respond to special occasions and unforeseen events e.g. a time of disaster or of celebration. It should be structured to ensure a quality experience for all

participants. It should be clear in its liturgical focus and varied in its delivery. It should relate to the age, ability and cultural background of students.

All Acts of Worship will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Reflect upon spiritual/moral issues
- Encourage student participation
- Be a high-quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Lead learners to a greater understanding of the word of God expressed in the Bible and religious stories.
- Share common aims and values
- Develop a community spirit
- Help students to grow in liturgical understanding
- Reinforce prayers which are part of Catholic tradition

Celebrations will:

- Be succinct and appropriately paced considering the age of the children
- Be age appropriate, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Incorporate acting, singing, and other types of engagement
- Engage students' attention and keep it with a variety of multimodal tools while also including them spiritually in the liturgy.
- Encourage participation of parents and wider community

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Worship

As a College we use CAFOD, TenTen and other supplementary resources as an aid to staff in their planning of collective worship. Resources follow the Liturgical year and have a strong emphasis on scripture.

The format for Collective Worship for our College will be:

Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

The Word – every liturgy will focus on at least one piece of scripture from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from the Bible.

Response – 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 – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Whole School Masses/Liturgies

Eucharistic celebrations (Mass) are attended by the whole College, sometimes in phases or by individual year groups. Whenever Mass is celebrated in school, parents and parishioners are invited to join with us. School Masses are always planned jointly between members of school staff and one or more of our parish priests as per the 'Directory for Masses with Children'. We start the academic year with a mass for our staff as well as a Welcome Mass for new students

and families. We also ensure that our Collective Worship timetable takes into consideration feast days, solemnities and other special occasions within the church that may occur when students are in school. Mass is celebrated weekly in the College Chapel with classes invited from KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5.

During the Mass pupils enter the Church or hall in a quiet and reflective manner. Music provides a signal that the gathering part of the Mass has begun and students are encouraged to behave in a respectful manner. Teachers remind pupils that the Eucharist should be received in a reverent way (clean hands) and how to cross arms if they are receiving a blessing.

Sacraments

As a Catholic College, we aim to provide children and their families with regular opportunities to experience the sacraments as part of school life, in coordination with our local parishes. During Advent and Lent, all students whose faith development has reached the appropriate stage are invited to attend the sacrament of reconciliation, again facilitated by our local parish priests and other priests from within the Upper Thames Deanery.

Retreats

Retreats are provided for the students from EYFS to Y13. Each class is given an opportunity to spend a day together in prayer and reflection. These are held in various locations, at the College, SPEC Centre Pinner or local parishes.

Primary School Collective Worship

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 Collective Worship and Prayer timetable:

The involvement of pupils in the preparation and delivery of assemblies in every year group is expected.

DAY	TYPE OF WORSHIP	NATURE OF WORSHIP	LED BY
Monday	Gospel Assembly	To reflect upon the previous weekly Gospel readings and appropriate liturgical themes of the day including feast days or Holy Days of obligation.	Head teacher
Tuesday	Class based worship	Teacher led liturgy responding to the Gospel.	Class teacher
Wednesday	Singing Worship	To sing praise and celebrate the Wednesday Word.	Music lead, DHT, HT
Thursday	Child Led worship	Children prepare and lead in classes. EYFS and KS1 supported by Teacher/TA. Based on different liturgical themes.	Children on a rota in House groups.
Friday	Celebration Assembly or Class Assembly	To reflect on scripture linked to our focused Catholic Social Teaching Principle or key liturgical themes and to celebrate the achievements of the week. Each class leads a special assembly.	Class teachers on a rota

Prayer in the Primary School

Our Religious Education Scheme of work provides some opportunities for prayer during the lessons. When praying with children we must remember that each of them is unique and therefore their prayer is unique. They come from different homes, with different experiences, and an individual set of problems, anxieties, and questions. Teachers will need to provide creative and varied opportunities for prayer so that children from many diverse backgrounds have the best opportunities to discover their own spiritual response. The use of music and singing supports this.

Prayer takes place at the start and end of the day, as well as, before and after lunch. Pupils learn, and experience, all forms of prayer so that they can adore, give praise and thanks, express sorrow to God on their own behalf and on behalf of others, as well as offer prayers of petition and intercession. Each class provides a prayer focus within their room, in the form of a display, collection of artefacts, Bible and candle etc. where the children can focus during time of class prayer or private reflection during the day. Each pupil has a prayer journal to write their own prayers during the liturgical year. The prayer journal follows the pupil on their journey through the school and is kept as a keepsake when the pupil leaves in Year 6. Each year group has a prayer booklet with progression of prayers through the phases. Prayer booklets are shared with families.

Resources in the Primary School

Children's Bibles and prayer table resources are kept in each class. Each class will have a Child Led worship pack– with wallets containing resources for the four parts of the collective worship act. Posters, books, and religious artefacts are also available to support prayer and worship.

World Religions

Each year group covers a world religion in the autumn and summer terms. Parents and speakers are invited to share knowledge and practise of these religions with the children.

Recording in the Primary School

Prayer and Worship may be recorded:

- through the scripts of class assemblies.
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs,
- Child Led Worship is recorded in the Class Book or Google Classroom presentations (KS2) with an evaluation sheet.

Primary School Monitoring and Evaluation:

A Collective Worship monitoring and evaluation schedule ensures our worship will be evaluated by our Chaplain, Leadership team and RE leaders. Evaluations 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. This will be through:

- Observing Acts of Worship throughout the school.
- Pictures, children's contributions, feedback from parents/community and photos are gathered for RE portfolio.
- Assembly scripts.
- Self-evaluation of weekly assemblies.

High School Collective Worship

High School Assemblies

Currently, throughout the key stages, assemblies are held on a year or key stage basis once a week. Key Stage assemblies will usually be led by members of LT, and the Progress Leader. Prayer and scripture are to be included as an integral part of every assembly. It is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere. The involvement of students in the preparation and delivery of assemblies in every year group is expected.

High School Daily Prayer and Worship

On the days where no assembly takes place, the students have a form reflection in which the teacher or student leads an act of worship. It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere in the classroom.

This will be achieved by following our rota: [Collective worship rota](#)

High School Resources

Each classroom will have:

- crucifix displayed which can be the focus for prayer.
- prayer table which will reflect the Liturgical calendar.
- College prayer displayed on the wall (see Appendix 1).

High School Monitoring and Evaluation:

At least once a half term our school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the College Chaplain and Assistant Principal for Catholic Life 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. This will be done through observing Acts of Worship throughout the school.

Voluntary Worship

In Primary School children are given several opportunities to participate voluntarily in worship. During Advent and Lent children are invited to share in prayer groups. Children are also invited to visit local parishes. During the month of May children are invited to offer prayers of intercession to Our Lady by joining the Rosary Club. During the month of October children are invited to reflect and pray the Rosary by joining the Parent Prayer in the Chapel. In High School students are invited to lead the prayer for parents and primary school children especially in the months of October and May.

Staff, Parent and Community Worship

Staff Prayer

Every Monday morning, staff meet for prayer and briefing. All staff meetings begin with a prayer or reflection providing an opportunity to be still and quiet during this time. Each morning during Advent and Lent the students are encouraged to lead prayer and reflection for the community.

Parents/Carers

Parents/ Carers are expected to promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship and to provide necessary support as they are the first educators of their children. There are many ways

in which parents in our community are encouraged to engage in Collective Worship at the College. Some of the opportunities we provide are:

- Welcome mass for families of Reception, Year 7 and Year 12 students
- Parents/carers invited to year group Masses and liturgies
- Parents invited to EYFS/KS1 nativity play, Carol service, Passion play and community events
- Year 6, Year 11 and 13 Leavers Liturgies and Thanksgiving Masses
- Primary school 'Travelling Cribs' and 'Lenten' family prayer packs
- Family Rosary group in October
- Daily Advent and Lent prayer in the Chapel for staff, parents and students.

Community

We look for collective worship opportunities with our local community and parishes through various activities:

- Attendance at various Masses within our parishes at times throughout the year
- Offering a carol service at St James's Church and St Margaret's Church
- Schola Cantorum supports numerous churches in local parishes during Masses

Right to withdrawal

SRRCC expects all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the pupil during that time. This complies with the 1944 Education Act which was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act. The College however welcomes all members of the school in collective worship regardless of faith.

Guidance

There is an inventory of all resources and religious artefacts. Relevant websites are shared with staff including the Westminster Diocesan website. Liturgical resources are shared with staff e.g. stations of the cross, Catholicism Unpacked documents for liturgical times of the year. Prayer folders and a Prayer handbook devised by the RE coordinators with specific prayers are updated regularly and given to all members of staff.

Appendix 1 -St Richard Reynolds College prayer

St Richard Reynolds,

Be with us in our faith, life and learning.

Open our eyes to a challenge,

Open our hearts to love,

Open our ears to listen,

Open our spirits to inspire,

And let us see the good things of the Lord.

Amen