



# **Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy**

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

*In this policy we set out our Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship, we include the legality and right for withdrawal and how will plan to monitor, evaluate and review. We include responsibilities and Inclusion and Equal Opportunities*

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Blessed Robert Sutton is a Catholic school. Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide a great Catholic education for all our young people.

Our mission statement is

**'Academic excellence, spiritual development and social awareness through Christ'**

# Vision and Values of Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy

Blessed Robert Sutton is a Catholic school. Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide a great Catholic education for all our young people.

Our mission statement is

**'Academic excellence, spiritual development and social awareness through Christ'**



This means:

- Inspiring and motivating young people to follow 'The Sutton Way' and achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and in a full range of extra-curricular activities
- Developing in young people a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- Practising Gospel values (Work Hard. Be Kind. Do the right thing), such as forgiveness and helping those in need, within our school community and in society as a whole.

Our mission statement has been embedded across our school community and permeate all areas of school life.

This policy is to complement our vision and values.

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## **The Nature of Collective Worship.**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic Academy is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour and 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.<sup>1</sup>

## **Our Philosophy and Purpose**

In the light of our mission statement, if Christ is to be at our centre, then we must acknowledge His place there every day in our acts of worship and prayer.

As our Catholic Academy is grounded in the Gospel values, so they must guide us in our daily activity and be the basis of our daily worship. We believe worship expresses and builds community as well as the individual's relationship with God. We must begin each day with God, in prayer and celebration. The daily act of worship must be a separate and specific part of our day. It is distinct from the giving of notices and discipline.

### ***The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy***

*We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in it:*

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those who form part of the worshipping community in our academy;
- Those for whom the academy may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian backgrounds;
- Those from other world faith backgrounds;
- Those from other backgrounds who are admitted to the academy under the categories agreed by the Governing Body as the admission authority.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain at a level or faith background appropriate to them.

## **Legal Requirements.**

We acknowledge the legal statutory requirement that a daily Act of Worship is provided for all pupils and students on the academies register.<sup>2</sup> (This can take place at any time during the academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils/students or separate acts of worship in 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.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

*We believe that the Collective Worship at Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy aims to provide opportunity for all pupils, staff and visitors:*

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To explore and reflect on their own beliefs and value systems;
- To respond to and celebrate life;
- To experience a sense of belonging and community;
- To develop a common ethos and shared value system;
- To enrich religious experience and the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the students;
- To grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills;
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- To reinforce positive attitudes;
- To nurture and educate our students on their journey and towards full and active participation in the liturgical life of their faith communities through as full a participation as possible;
- To take time 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give meaning and worth to' life.

## **Principles**

*All Acts of Worship in Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy will:*

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of our academy and its Catholic character;
- Give our students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.<sup>3</sup>
- Build our academy into a community founded on Jesus' life and teachings as expressed through the saints and other inspirational people.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be reflective, engaging and clear, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

*Collective Worship is planned by:*

- The Academy Chaplain
- Student Chaplaincy Team
- RE department
- Year Leaders
- Senior Staff
- Tutors
- Students

Once an act of worship / service or assembly has been delivered, it should be recorded on the staff shared area for others to access.

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<sup>3</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

## *The Content and Delivery of Collective Worship:*

### **Liturgical Celebrations**

#### **Sacramental**

##### **Eucharist - Celebration of Mass**

Eucharistic celebrations in our academy will highlight a special occasion and will be celebrated with all students. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as for other acts of academy worship, therefore opportunities for students to participate will be maximised.

We believe that all students are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In the academy, therefore, the '**Liturgy of the Word**', rather than the Eucharist may be the norm, though regular Eucharistic celebration will be planned, especially for Holy Days of Obligation and Feast Days.

- We begin the year with a Mass for staff on the first INSET day
- We have a welcome Mass for yr7, and new staff on the second day of term.
- All Holy Days of Obligation that occur during term time are celebrated with Mass. Where possible we will run whole school Mass in the Sports Hall. Given Covid restrictions where this is not possible we will ensure there are virtual alternatives.
- We celebrate Blessed Robert Sutton's Day with a Mass for the remaining members of the community on or around his Feast Day of the 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- We have Leaver's Masses to mark the end of years 11.
- Each XXXX morning at 8.00am there is a Voluntary Mass in the Chapel.
- All Year groups through RE study the Eucharist, and prepare a celebration of the Holy Mass, which takes place in their Lesson.
- Mass is celebrated to remember those associated with the academy who have died, families and friends of the deceased are invited to join us.
- *We also remember global events such as The Hillsborough disaster, 7/7, Remembrance Day and Armistice Day.*
- November – the month of the Holy Souls: Prayer intentions are gathered during November.
- On the last Friday of every month we celebrate Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We invite staff /pupils to join us for this service at lunchtime.
- Our Masses are attended by staff and others from our parish communities. Larger celebrations are attended by governors, ex-staff and friends of the academy.

##### **Reconciliation**

- Penitential themed liturgies are celebrated in conjunction with the RE syllabus and are prepared and led by Chaplaincy and students in class groups.
- Sacramental Reconciliation, with the opportunity for individual confession, is offered to pupils and staff when priests are available.

#### **Other**

- Pupils and staff are invited to Morning Prayer before the day begins in Lent and Advent in the Chapel. Prayers are reflective of the season, e.g. Stations of the Cross during Lent. These are led by the Academy Chaplain, and other Staff.
- RE classes have prayer services to coincide with specific aspects of the KS3/KS4 syllabi. E.g. Rosary in y10

- Ash Wednesday is celebrated with a service involving the distribution of ashes. This is led by the Chaplain
- Carol services are held to celebrate Advent. These are coordinated by the Chaplain and led by Year Leaders with student involvement.
- Advent and Lent Assemblies are coordinated by the Chaplaincy team each school year.
- Assemblies take place once a week for each Year Group and are led by Year Leaders, , senior staff and the Chaplain. Tutor Groups are involved in organising and presenting assemblies.
- Each Tutor Group has an act of worship during morning Tutor time. This is led by form tutors, and members of the Tutor Group. This takes the form of a Power Point slide show for each day of the week with scripture and prayer reflections. Tutor groups are free to plan their own prayer resources as well.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the academy's provision of worship will be formally evaluated as part of the Academy's review process, to consider whether it meets the needs of all students and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This is informed by Section 48 guidance, which involved student Voice, observations of collective acts of worship and interviews with students and staff.

## Policy Monitoring and Review

The policy is monitored by the member of the senior management team who has Collective Worship responsibility along with the Co-ordinator (**Academy Chaplain – Will Cruddace**). It is evaluated and reviewed by the academy staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors (in the name of the Diocesan Trustees) will have a particular role and responsibility for this review. The overall responsibility of Governors from a statutory perspective and Foundation Governors from the canonical perspective needs to be clearly stated in the context of the denominational nature of our academy.

## Resources

- There is a daily Power Point, which gives readings reflections and prayers each day.
- Staff are encouraged to refer to the Chaplain and the RE department who are happy to share resources and expertise.
- There is a bank of reflective music on CD in the Chapel, and on line.
- A collection of books available from the Chaplaincy.
- The Gideon's visit us each year and present year 7 pupils with a New Testament.
- The Chapel is always available for reflection and prayer.
- Each classroom has a cross or crucifix, an inspirational scripture or quote that reflects the mission statement, a copy of the Academy Mission Statement, our school prayer. A picture of Pope Francis and the Bishop of Nottingham (Sede Vacante.)
- The Student planner also includes prayer pages. Every exercise books has a copy of our school prayer.

## Pilgrimage

- Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – July (16+)