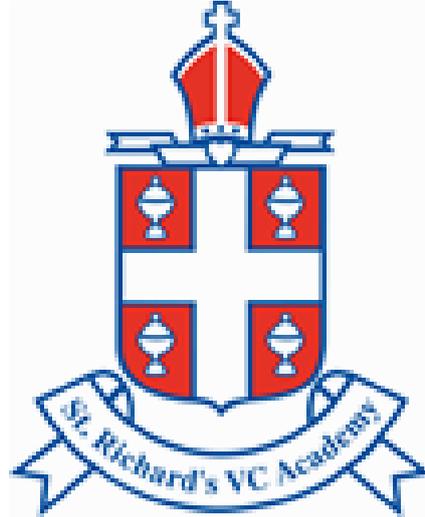


St Richard's V.C Academy



Policy for Collective Worship

Prepared by Mrs A Bentley

Reviewed by RE team Spring 2019

Mission Statement

Our school is a place where all learn and grow knowing that Christ's love surrounds them and all are valued for their uniqueness.

Aspire, Learn, Serve and Grow in Christ.

St Richard's exists to support parents and carers who are their child's first educators. We strive to ensure that children develop spiritually, morally, physically and academically in order to reach their true potential.

We aim to be a truly Christian community, where our relationships are built on the core Gospel values.

Our religious life is rooted in the faith, practice and moral teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Each person in our community is specially valued and has an important part to play in making sure that we live out our mission.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with 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

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.

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.

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 enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. 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 simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Collective Worship takes place every day and fully supports and promotes our Catholic Christian traditions:

Monday	- Key Stage Act of Worship based upon the Statement of Belief and led by SLT
Tuesday	- Prayer and Praise with appropriate Scriptural links
Wednesday	- School collective worship led by Junior Chaplaincy Team
Thursday	- Class Act of Worship led by liturgy planning team
Friday	- Whole School Praise Assembly celebrating children's work and achievements. -Class - Little Lectio

In addition to this weekly programme, there are opportunities to celebrate whole school liturgies (appropriate to the Church year).

- Children attend Mass in Church or School on Holy days. Year groups in KS2 attend 'First Friday Mass'.
- Each class plans and takes part in a Liturgy in school based on the RE programme of work "Come and See". This forms part of liturgical education for the children.
- The Parish Priest from our local parishes (St Bede's and Sacred Heart) plays an active role in the school.
- Parents are encouraged to join us where appropriate and are welcome to share some of these celebrations including Stay and Pray, which takes place at least termly for each year group.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship is the Assistant Head of School and RE Co-ordinator, Mrs A Bentley.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed every two years.