

S Finbar's Catholic Primary School

**Type:
Policy Document**

**Collective Worship
Policy**

**Lead:
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Mission Statement

Praising God in every way;
in all we think, do and say



We at St Finbar's aim to respect and value all those involved in contributing to the life of our school.

Our purpose, which is founded upon Catholic principles, is to provide a secure, happy and creative environment in which children grow spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, seeking and celebrating a personal best.

We promote strong relationships with families and parish, whilst fostering local and wider world awareness - creating future good citizens enabling them to grow through this Mission in action.



Aims of Religious Education

Curriculum Aim

The staff of St. Finbar's will work to give each child full access to a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging each individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Opportunities are offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

Statement of intent

In St. Finbar's, our mission through Religious Education, is to give each individual child the opportunity to experience celebration, prayer and time for personal reflection. It is a collaborative subject which respects each child's own inner spiritual self, and it allows for wonder, awe, reverence and self-exploration. It is taught discretely and developmentally. It includes the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.

Through 'Come and See' we, as a Catholic school, aim to develop our children's religious growth. We strive to give each child the opportunity to explore the language of religious experience - through stories, visitors, religious education visits, artefacts, religious activities, collective worship, I.C.T, drama, art and music.

As a school, we work as closely together as we can with home, our Parish Priest (Father John Southworth) and Parish communities of (Our Lady of St. Carmel Church) so that we can present the Christian event, message and way of life in a systematic way with regard to each individual child and their potential.

For us, Religious Education is for all. Religious Education is as academically respected as other core curriculum areas. Within the classroom, teachers use a variety of styles and strategies, to reinforce the Christian message we as a Catholic school uphold.

St. Finbar's motto - **'Praising God in every way, in all we think, do and say. Amen.'**

Through our school motto and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

We include appropriate materials about our Other Faith - Judaism and World Religions and we encourage our children to be tolerant and respectful towards other faiths and religions. Engagement with their own and others beliefs and values will help develop and nurture good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning. In St. Finbar's we aim to foster a loving relationship between our children, staff and members of the school community. This relationship reflects the commandment of Jesus 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face enables our children to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.

Our outcome for Religious Education from the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012: '... is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills-appropriate to their age and capacity - to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. '

What is Collective Worship?

"Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power."
(Circular1/94)

"Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God."

The worship which takes place in St Finbar's Catholic Primary School is Collective Worship.

This 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Catholic in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Worship in our school will be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common.

Why Collective Worship?

Collective Worship in our school provides opportunities for learners and staff to come together to worship God.

- To reflect on spiritual and moral beliefs
- To reflect on personal belief
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To mark us as special
- To come to terms with
- To give worth to

- To wonder at
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To contemplate something of the *Mystery of God*
- To take time out
- To develop a community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Governing Body have a responsibility for drawing up this policy for Collective Worship after consulting the Head Teacher and RE Coordinator.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.

Class teachers are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship each day.

Learners must have the opportunity to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.

Parents and other adults can be invited to participate in Collective Worship.

Teachers, Chaplains, children and visitors can lead Collective Worship.

Where Collective Worship takes place:

- In the classroom
- In the open air
- In the school hall
- School Worship areas

Acts of Collective Worship should take place in school, but the Governing Body have the discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

When Collective Worship takes place:

Collective Worship need not take place at the beginning of the school day, but at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful experience for all participants. Collective Worship in our school takes place in classes, year groups, key stages and as a whole school.

EYFS - Monday - Thursday in class, Friday Whole School

KS1 - Monday-Wednesday in class, Thursday Key stage and Friday Whole School

KS2 - Monday Key stage, Tuesday-Thursday in class and Friday Whole School

Significant dates or Church events are also celebrated whole school.

The RE coordinator will be responsible for producing a yearly timetable for whole school Collective Worship. Each year group will take turns in leading these Worships and parents and Governors will be invited.

Length of Collective Worship

In general Collective Worship should last one minute for each year of a child's life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by learners, staff and visitors
- Can be offered for a class, year group, Key Stage or whole school
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or short addresses
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the learners.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Collective Worship will be planned, recorded and evaluated using school format.

Collective Worship should offer:

- A focus point
- Time for reflection
- Communal prayers
- Private prayer
- Scriptural reference
- Music/dance/mime/singing

Children should be encouraged to participate in all areas of preparation and delivery

Planning

- Through consultation with appropriate parties and references to the school's aims and policies
- With reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum

Recording

- To keep note of the themes, leaders, learning groups and resources using class books. End of topic celebrations should also be recorded in class books.
- Through displays, collections of learner's contributions, prayers and reflections

Evaluation

- To be regularly evaluated by staff and learners with reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible
- To be regularly monitored by Head teacher, RE Coordinator and RE Governor

Examples of Collective Worship in our school

