



# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Monitoring

The implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher (Catholic Life).

### Evaluation

The policy was reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher (Catholic Life), Chaplain, and Senior Leadership Team on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 prior to the submission of the policy to Governors' Community Committee for scrutiny and recommendation to the Full Governing Board for approval.

#### Policy Review Dates:

**Date last approved by Full Governing Board:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Date submitted to Governors' Committee:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Date submitted to Full Governing Board:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Review Frequency:** Every 2 years

**Start date for policy review:** January 2025

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The pupils, parents, governors and staff of St Gregory's Catholic High School strive to work in partnership to create a living and vibrant community in which each member is valued. At the core of every aspect of school life is the belief that we can have no better inspiration than the example and teaching of Jesus Christ. Our community seeks to set an example of service, as Jesus did, and in so doing fulfil the high aspirations we have for each of our members and foster the fullest spiritual, academic and personal development of our pupils.**

## **RATIONALE**

Collective Worship at St Gregory's High School aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God and to respond to the invitation from God to be in relationship with him.

Collective Worship reflects the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, taking into account the spiritual and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in churches
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- those from other Christian traditions, faith communities or none.

Worship is more than just a legal requirement at St Gregory's; it is an integral part of school life. Everyone in our community is able to contribute to it and gain from it, regardless of their level of belief and commitment.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship

We understand that assembly which simply consists of staff or student reading a prayer does not fulfil this requirement.

We are also aware and acknowledge that Collective Worship and assembly are distinctive activities. Where they may sometimes form part of the same gathering, the difference 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.

Through Collective Worship we encourage positive attitudes and challenge negative attitudes so as to encourage a common ethos and shared values amongst us all both in the school and the wider community.

Acts of worship will usually take place on school premises. However, the Governing Board has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere on specific occasions e.g. school residential trips.

In St Gregory's Catholic High School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Board after consultation with the Head Teacher.

### **AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Our aims are to provide Collective Worship that will support the philosophy of our Mission Statement.

Collective Worship will be:

- concerned with the greater glory and honour of God
- central to our Catholic Education and form an essential part of our overall provision for prayer and worship
- designed to have Christ at its heart, focused on his command to love one another
- conducive to reflection on spiritual and moral issues

To fulfil the above aims, Collective Worship will:

- ensure that glory and honour to God is central to all acts of worship
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of our school and its Catholic character
- give students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age in order to prepare them for the spiritual life of the school and beyond
- be memorable and enjoyable
- be designed to actively engage students and elicit response
- be resourced and planned
- be flexible and able to respond quickly and suitably to any situation or occasion
- be inclusive

### **ORGANISATION OF WORSHIP**

- morning prayer for staff after briefing *sent out after briefing via email and displayed on school website.*
- weekly year group Collective Worship lead by Chaplain, Senior staff, Progress Managers and tutor groups, *sent out via Class Charts*
- daily form Collective Worship
- tutor group liturgies
- provision for *key liturgical celebrations when in school*
- services of reconciliation
- Annual whole school Mass at the end of the summer term
- welcome Mass for Year 7 and families
- Year 11 leavers Mass
- Christmas and Easter special form Collective Worship
- visiting speakers

- come listen, come receive Eucharistic service once a week on a Friday
- celebration events
- beginning/end of term Mass for staff where appropriate
- Tutor group Collective Worship with chaplains in chapel

Collective Worship is planned:

- following the framework of Gather/Listen/Respond/Leave
- following a structure, rooted in the Catholic Church seasons
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations
- to develop student's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Collective Worship content and delivery will:

- use a balance of quiet reflection, prayers, responses, music, song, dance, drama, multimedia and mime
- set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order, expectation and occasion
- provide a focus using artefacts, candles, and symbols. Led by staff, students and visitors
- adhere to this policy

### **Planning and Provision of Collective Worship**

Overall responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Governors and the Head Teacher with daily planning and provision led by the Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Catholic Life, Head of Religious Education and the School Chaplain.

All staff identified on the Collective Worship rota published at the beginning of every academic year have a duty to know when they are scheduled to deliver an act of Collective Worship. The staff will include members of the SLT, PPMs, form tutors with their form groups, as well as the chaplain and any visitors invited to St. Gregory's to deliver an act of Collective Worship.

### **RESOURCES**

St Gregory's Catholic High School has:

- 1 full time Chaplain to support staff, students and the local community in all aspects of the Catholic life of the school.
- The school chapel which is a facility open to the whole school. It provides a place of sanctuary, peace, quiet and space for personal and collective prayer.
- resources to support all staff in the delivery of Collective Worship. Books, bibles, prayer books, symbols, artefacts and information are available at any time from the chaplain.
- the support and experience of local Priests and parishioners of the Pastoral Area available when needed
- access to other resources and updated by the Chaplains on a regular basis.

- Inset training on Collective Worship available to all staff.
- induction sessions when required for new staff and NQTs

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship will be the responsibility of:

- Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Catholic Life
- Head of RE
- School Chaplain

For St. Gregory's, Collective Worship is more than just a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils moral and spiritual development. Collective Worship is also an important part of our distinct Catholic ethos. As such, the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship will focus on:

- The frequency of Collective Worship delivered by Form Tutors at registration
- The participation and engagement of pupils in their act of Collective Worship, taking into account the class environment, Collective Worship structure, the quality of prayer and reflection, resources and delivery.
- The integration of key events in the Church's calendar, such as Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas, into the daily life of the school, all of which are integral to the Catholic identity and life of St. Gregory's.

This policy will be monitored and evaluated in line with the school's agreed schedule and procedures by the Assistant Head Teacher (Catholic Life). The designated Community link Governor will also monitor the implementation of this policy during visits to the school.