
OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a voluntary aided school in the public sector, Our Lady Immaculate complies with all the relevant statutory requirements for the provision of Collective Worship. Whilst we do so wholeheartedly, as a faith school with our particular ethos we believe that these statutory provisions are no more than a minimal baseline; one which we must always strive to exceed in our policies and practices. RE and Collective Worship are, therefore, for Our Lady Immaculate as fundamental as any core subject – a point that cannot be overemphasised.

Daily Worship

Daily worship is almost always class or team gatherings. Children and staff are encouraged and allowed to participate fully in this daily worship. At Our Lady Immaculate, importance is put on creating a prayerful and reflective atmosphere to make this time special for children and staff, so that they can participate fully in worship together. During daily worship, teachers may use song, music, candles, flowers, scripture, formal and informal prayers, poetry, books, posters, mime and silence as a stimulus for worship. Children gather in their areas or our Oratory during the day. This is a time for sharing joy, sorrow, news, events.... It is a time for us to come together to celebrate and give thanks; to worship God, to reflect on personal belief, to encourage faith and to respond to and celebrate life. As each class teacher knows their children personally, this experience is most meaningful. Sometimes children will lead these acts of worship. Silence is valued for both collective and personal communion with God.

Children of other faiths are included in our Collective Worship and assemblies and are encouraged to pray alongside us. During Collective Worship, there is a balance between formal and informal prayer intentions and a time to allow for spontaneous worship and celebrations. Attitudes of praise, thanksgiving and contrition are developed. From this act of worship, children and staff get a sense of belonging and fellowship. This form of Collective Worship is always adapted to the age and development stage of the pupils. Staff are most sensitive to the needs and concerns of the children in their care.

Assemblies

Assemblies are normally EYFS/KS1 and LKS2/UKS2 based. Assembly takes many forms but an act

of Collective Worship is included at some stage. Each area, EYFS, KS1, LSK2 and UKS2 have one assembly per week, usually on a Monday. It is intended that assemblies are learning experiences, hence the careful planning and delivery.

Assemblies provide an opportunity for sharing ideas and thoughts with a larger group. Our Lady Immaculate aims, through its assemblies, to contribute to our children's religious education. Through well-chosen themes, assemblies also link into PSHE, Health Education, SEAL and citizenship, core and foundation subjects. During assembly we seek to enrich our pupils' experiences and we encourage the community to participate. To ensure breadth and depth to the children's experience, a variety of methods are used, including music, drama, story, art and artefacts.

We also have a whole school celebration assembly each Friday where children's' achievements, successes, work and attendance etc., are shared and celebrated. Peer mentors and Playground friends also have an opportunity for peer – peer recognition of successes through the distribution of certificates and stickers. Celebration of Collective Worship is distinct and occurs at the end of our assembly time.

Liturgy

Our Lady Immaculate aims to help children understand and celebrate relevant events in their own and the Church's life. As some of our children do not attend Church regularly, we have to be sensitive to their needs, and the form that liturgy takes must be carefully considered and planned. Educating children in these experiences is a gradual process and great care is taken in allowing for this.

Liturgical celebrations for EYFS/KS1 children are centred on their need to celebrate certain life events or experiences and highlights of the Church's year. KS2 children are involved in preparing and participating in their own liturgy. It is our aim that celebrations will be meaningful, enjoyable and prayerful. Parents are invited to participate. The liturgies for Our Lady Immaculate take place in our school and sometimes in church. Staff and children gather together for assembly and meditation at key liturgical points in the year. Parents, the parish community and school work together during sacramental preparation. Children are invited to help prepare and plan their own liturgy. The Chaplaincy Group with the SLT, help to prepare, plan and deliver whole school liturgy and are now beginning to prepare, plan and lead class Collective Worship.

Adult Liturgy

Staff participate in 'Come and See for yourself' and all staff participate in a termly reflection and prayer time at the end of each term. During Advent and Lent, there are daily acts of worship through celebration of the Evening Prayer of the Church (Divine Office,) in our Oratory.

The Oratory

The school has a small chapel which we call the Oratory. All members of our community are most welcome to come and use the Oratory for prayer and reflection. Mass is said frequently and is attended by staff, children and visitors to our school. The Oratory is also a special place which is used to prepare children for sacramental preparation, worship and supports the spiritual development of staff and children.

The presence of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Tabernacle and we educate the children and give them a sense of reverence and respect. At times of celebration, thanksgiving, stress, loss, bereavement... children and staff share their prayers and intentions within our school community through our Prayer Intentions Book which is kept in the Oratory.

Spiritual and Moral Development

From our mission statement, we aim to develop all our children to their full potential and this includes spiritual and moral development. This can be identified in all our work in school but most of all in the relationships which exist within the school. Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, values others for themselves, not only for what they have or what they can do for us. We value relationships as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of ourselves and others and to the good of the community. This can be seen in policies such as behaviour, equal opportunities, SEN, gifted and talented and inclusion. It can also be seen in the work done in RE health education, SEAL and assemblies.

As a Catholic Community we hold that the Christian outlook should have an effect on all aspects of school life, not just curriculum, but also personal relationships, manners, social development etc. It should also affect the conduct of wider school activities: celebrations, anniversaries, festivals, problems and complaints. In this way we wish to promote an awareness of the spiritual significance of all aspects of daily life including the gifts, talents and personalities of both children and staff.