



Collective Worship Policy

De Lisle College

De Lisle College Mission Statement

“Rooted and grounded in Love”.

Ephesians 3:17

Our mission is to be rooted and grounded in God’s love so that each student receives the highest quality Catholic education and knows that they are loved deeply by Jesus Christ.

- All students experience the **Love** of Jesus Christ every day.
- Everyone is given the **Opportunity** to grow.
- Everyone **Values** themselves and each other by ‘doing what is right, not what is easy’ in the words of our school motto.
- Above all, we will grow actively in our faith by seeking a personal **Encounter** with Jesus Christ, so that we bear witness to the good news and to the teachings of the Church.
- We all **Serve** our neighbours near and far as missionary disciples.

L = Love

O = Opportunity

V = Values

E = Encounter

S = Serve

#DeLisleLoves

The Nature of Collective Worship.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.¹ We also are called to Worship God, not just because of it being the right and fitting response, but in so doing what we receive from him, the Graces needed to live a good Christian life and freedom from turning inward on oneself and remaining in sin.²

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 for whom school may be their first and only experience of the 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.

¹ 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.

² Catechism of the Catholic Church Article 2097

Worship in the Catholic academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of academy life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our academy aims to provide opportunity for all students and staff:





- To give God the Glory he deserves from us as our Creator and Saviour
- To receive Grace and sanctification of our souls through the Sacraments
- To fulfil our obligation as a institute of the Catholic Church by responding to and celebrating life through worship and prayers of the Catholic tradition
- To enter into the life of the Holy Trinity and to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues while exploring and reflecting on staff and students' own beliefs and value systems
- To experience a sense of belonging and community through a common ethos and shared value system
- To enrich religious experience and the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the students; and grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills
- To reinforce positive attitudes by nurturing and educating 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

Principles

All Celebrations of the Word in the Catholic academy will:

- Give glory and honour to God by being Christocentric
- Be of a high quality, fundamental to the life of the academy and in keeping with the practices and norms of the Catholic Church
- Give students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for and incorporate them in the liturgical life of the Church.³

All prayer and liturgies will include:

The Season		It must follow the Church Liturgical year.
Scripture		Should be given prominence, respect and reference throughout the liturgy
Sense		See, hear, think and do are part of every Act of Worship.
Structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gather • The Word • Response • The Mission

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

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

Voluntary Worship, Pilgrimage and Retreats

Each morning there is the opportunity for students to spend some time in prayer. As a year group they gather for prayer at the end of lunch. Students are also offered the chance to go on residential retreats. Students in year 10 upwards have the chance to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes and to Flame in London. Every student will experience a day retreat every year.

Celebration of Sacraments within School

The Sacrament of the Eucharist celebrated and received during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the source and summit of the Christian Life.⁴ It is the source of unity between God and Man, and within the Church; and so is rightly called Holy Communion.⁵ We celebrate the Eucharist at Jesus' command to do this in memory of Him; we therefore participate in this form of worship at the command of God and receive the real presence of God.⁶ The sacrifice offered is a thanksgiving sacrifice of praise to the Father; it is the same sacrifice the Christ offered on the Cross of Calvary for our salvation and deliverance from sin.⁷ It is therefore the primary and most perfect form of Worship we participate in. The Academy will make sure that every Holyday of Obligation is celebrated with Mass.

There will be a Welcome Mass for Year 7 when they join the Academy, and a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated on the Year 11 and 13 students' last day. Mass is regularly celebrated in school, as well as on every retreat day. Students will be actively involved in the preparation of all Masses and the different ministries; as well as participating through responding in the prayers, hymns, periods of silence and other liturgical actions.

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal statutory requirement that a daily Act of Worship is provided for all students on the academy's register.⁸ (This can take place at any time during the academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship in academy 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.

Provision for Act of Collective Worship Post 16 (School Leaving Age)

Subsequent to the 2006 Education and Inspection Act the situation in relation to all student post formal school leaving age in School or college if they are beyond formal school leaving age is:

⁴ CCC1324

⁵ CCC1325-1326,1331

⁶ CCC1357

⁷ CCC1359-1362

⁸ 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.

2006 Education Act on “Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at worship”

(1) Section 71 of SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance at religious worship, makes provision for exceptions and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows.

(1A) If the parent of any student at a community, foundation or voluntary school other than a sixth-form student requests that they may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the student shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

(1B) If a sixth-form student requests that they may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the student shall be so excused.”

The Celebration of the Word is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Curriculum Religious Education.

- Every morning there will be time for prayer in line-up, the day will also end in prayer during prep time.
- The Acts of Collective Worship whether as a year group, house or form will follow the Liturgical seasons of the Church’s Year.
- Students will be actively involved in collective worship with some students taking a leading role in the planning and delivery of whole academy worship.

In Catholic voluntary aided schools and colleges within the state sector, as with any voluntary aided school, responsibility for the provision of collective worship along with the logistics for the provision for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body and is normally delegated to the Head teacher.

- Following a structure with reference to the Church’s liturgical seasons, curriculum Religious Education, significant feasts, universes and events. Christ will be the focus in acts of worship, God’s Revelation which is communicated through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium will help emphasise this focus.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties, ie clergy and resource staff within the academy and in the context of the academy aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community
- To develop in pupil’s skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always contributing in a token way.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinators for Collective Worship are the Lay Chaplains who are at present Mr Hugh Cafferkey and Deacon Keith Hannah. The Co-ordinators are responsible for planning and organising whole Academy Collective Worship and supporting staff and students to prepare Acts of Worship for forms, houses and year groups. The Co-ordinators are also responsible for training staff in collective worship and leading Collective Worship for staff on INSET days etc.

Role of Other Staff

All leaders have a responsibility to support the planning content and delivery of worship in our academy. Form tutors are responsible for making sure a time of Collective Worship is celebrated in form when there is not a year group Celebration of the Word; teachers are to ensure the prayer at the end of the day is celebrated. All staff members will be supported by the leadership team, the Chaplain and the RE department in ensuring that the experiences are appropriate to the mission of our academy. All staff and students are encouraged to pray together before meetings.

Role of Students

As mentioned above we believe that students should be actively involved in the planning, preparation and leadership of Collective Worship - in forms, classes, houses and year groups; Masses and Liturgies. The Chaplaincy Team will be responsible for the preparing and leading the All Saints Day Mass and End of Term Liturgies. When Ash Wednesday falls in term time the sixth form students will plan and assist with these liturgies.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the academy's provision of worship will be formally evaluated 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. The group which oversees this is made up of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship, at least one Foundation Governor, at least one member of SLT, at least one member of the RE Department. The member of the RE department can also be a member of SLT or vice versa; other staff, governors or local clergy may also be added to the group if they so wish.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through displays, collections of students' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- On the chaplaincy section of the school website and in the Project 365 Newsletter

Resources

Resources are available in the Chapel and RE department and all tutors are also issued with a box of resources to support prayer. This includes a prayer table, liturgical coloured cloths, a crucifix, Bible, rosary beads and prayer books. All classrooms should have a poster of the Academy Mission Statement and Academy Prayer. All staff and students are given a copy of the Academy Prayer. The Chaplain is also a resource to support staff and students preparing Collective Worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

The members of the senior leadership team have Collective Worship responsibility along with the Co-ordinators to monitor the policy. 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 the academy.)

This policy has been adapted from the model guidance for Collective Worship in secondary schools and colleges; with additional material added by the Lay Chaplain and needs to be presented to the Senior Leadership team and Governing Body

Appendix 1 - Guidance for staff on our expectations of prayer.

What is prayer?

The Catholic Catechism (the teachings of the Church) defines prayer as **the raising of one's heart and mind to God**. When we pray the aim is to help us develop our relationship with God. We believe that God has the power to answer our prayers (not always in the way we might ask him to).

Prayer can take many forms. There are formal prayers which have set words that can be said with others e.g. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Our School Prayer. Informal prayers don't follow a set format and do not require preparation. They can contain an element of personal reflection.

Why is it important to our community?

Prayers can have different purposes according to the type of prayer. Set prayers help us to come together and worship as part of a community. Informal prayers can be used when someone wishes to communicate with God privately and reflect on their relationship with God in a more personal way.

Prayer is important to us because it helps to create time and space in our busy school day to remind ourselves that we are working towards important goals as a community and as individuals e.g. our mission statement. It is important that we set the right tone and place the right value on this experience.

What should it 'feel' like?

Prayer times should be respected by all staff and students. This means that we have high expectations of students during prayer. Whilst students (and staff) should not be forced to pray it is essential that staff ensure that prayer happens at the agreed times and that everyone shows respect for prayer. We would ask that all students are encouraged to gain something from the experience of prayer moments.

We can ensure this happens by talking to students about the importance of taking time to stop, reflect, be calm, still and to create a positive mindset. These are valuable experiences for us all, regardless of our personal religious beliefs.

This means that when we pray everything else stops. The mood in the room should change. It should be silent, reflective, respectful. Students should be sat down, with all books/items put away so as not to distract them. Prayer should always begin with the sign of the cross.

Prayer should not be seen as a task to tick off our list of jobs to do that morning/lesson/day. It should be a celebration of something that makes our community different to other school communities.

Ideally it will be student led. This means that we create an environment where students are confident to share their thoughts, prayers, reflections with each other knowing that the culture of respect exists.

When should it happen?

Prayer must take place in **prep time** every day. Each tutor group has resources to support them with this. Once a fortnight this will be a more formal year group Celebration of the Word.




How would we like to develop this in the future?

We would like to develop prayer spaces in all classrooms that can be used to help create a focus for prayer. We will be working with form prayer reps on this so that we can begin to get some resources together. Here are some images of suggestions for a classroom prayer space so that you can see how this could be used to improve our environment and reinforce our culture as a Catholic community.



Facilitating prayer at De Lisle College.

The setting/ environment	Prayer always needs to have a focal point. Prayer tables/ Sacred spaces need to be in all prep rooms.	
Facilitation of prayer	<p>Prayer needs to be student led. Use your class register to put students into pairs to lead the prep time prayer. Please make sure every student has the opportunity to lead prayer.</p> <p>For sixth form students may write and lead prayers to share within their tutor group.</p>	
Do Now	Prayer is the Do Now activity when students first come into prep time.	
Spiritual	Prayer needs to be spiritual, it is not a lesson activity. Spend some time encouraging students to engage thoughtfully with the time of prayer.	

Script	<p>Use the script from the training to support the beginning of prayer – the sign of the cross.</p>	<div data-bbox="853 219 1369 280"> How do I facilitate prayer? </div> <div data-bbox="1375 219 1452 297"> </div> <p>• Script: Let's take a moment to prepare for prayer. Pause.</p> <p>Let's make that sign together that reminds us we meet in the presence of Jesus. In the name of the Father, and of the son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p> <p>Prayer begins (Hand over to the two students). Finish the prayer with the sign of the cross.</p>
Evaluation/ response to prayer	<p>Two students from each form class are responsible for completing the evaluation/ response of the form class to the week's prayer time.</p> <p>This can be done through writing, using art in the form prayer book.</p> <p>The most important thing is to capture the views of students and how they have responded to the mission of the week.</p>	

Prep Prayer Resources.

Each tutor group have been given a box of resources to be used to support our request that prayer at the start of the day is meaningful and that it allows students an opportunity to reflect and respond in a way that enables an encounter with God.

Each box contains:

- Candle – which contains an artificial light
- Oscar Romero Cross
- Photo frame – for images, scripture quotes, focal points for prayer
- Bible – can be used to reflect on passages of scripture
- Simple Prayer Book – can be used to introduce students to some traditional prayers
- Rosary beads – used to help pray the rosary, a prayer more commonly said during the months of May and October
- Exercise book – for students to write down their own prayers
- Glass jar – for different prayer intentions to be written on paper and used to 'dip into' and encourage all students to then quietly pray for that intention or pray a formal prayer e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary for that intention

- 4 coloured cloths – These can be placed over the table and are in the colours of the Liturgical Calendar. Each colour links to different seasons in the Church calendar:
 - Green – ordinary time
 - Purple – Advent and Lent
 - White – Christmas, Easter, Feast days
 - Red – Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, some feast days

You have also been given a folding table which can be set up by your Form Prayer Rep initially as others become more confident then they can do this too. They can select different items to be used to help focus students' minds during prayer.

As we develop our confidence in supporting prayer you may come up with new ideas of things that can be added to your prayer box that can be shared with others.