



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by Mount St Marys' Governing Body on 1 October 2022

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe R. P.', is written over a horizontal line.

Chair of Governors

Review date: 30 September 2025

The Mission Statement

The community of Mount St Mary's Catholic High School is called to develop the full potential of each person spiritually, academically, socially and physically and to create a safe, happy and caring school.

This will be delivered through the following objectives:

- To develop spiritual growth and an understanding of Christian values.
- To provide a broad and balanced education which is rooted in Catholic values and principles.
- To recognise the unique talents and value of each individual so that everyone can experience the success which promotes self-confidence and a positive self-image.
- To establish an environment in which care and mutual respect is clearly evident.
- To raise awareness of the value of people of other faiths, backgrounds and ages and encourage respect for them.

Vision – All our activity is rooted in Prayer.

- The Mass is at the centre of the school life. Celebrating together makes a special and significant contribution to developing the school ethos.
- There is Mass in the school chapel every Wednesday morning at 8.00am.
- Forms will have access to a Form Mass on a cycle during Years 7 and 8 (tbc upon appointment of school Chaplain).
- House groups gather for Mass to celebrate their Patron Saint.
- Collective Daily Prayer will be accessed during assemblies, form group registration, Governors Meetings, staff/student liturgies, staff briefings, staff reflection gatherings.

Policy

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff to:

- Contemplate the mystery of God.
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- Foster and nurture relationships.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Experience a sense of belonging and develop a sense of community.
- Develop a common ethos and shared values.
- Enrich religious experience.
- Seek appropriate responses to the love of God.
- Grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- Take time out to 'wonder at', 'come to terms with' and 'celebrate the Word of God'.

Practice

An act of worship should be a spiritual experience, where the possibility for the pupils to encounter something of God in some brief way is offered. Some essential ingredients should include a spiritual focus, prayer and/or scripture appropriate to the theme and appropriately used and integrated and moments for reflection, some space, stillness or silence.

Consideration must be given to the place of Gathering, Word, Reflection and Mission in an act of worship. Holding an assembly that merely contains a prayer does not fulfil the spiritual or legal requirement. Worship in school is more than a legal requirement, it is an integral part of the school life and central to our Catholic tradition. It is fully underpinned by our Mission Statement.

1. Daily Prayer

- As a Christian community we set aside time each morning in registration to worship. This is also a legal requirement. Readings do not have to be biblical and can include poems or even contemporary stories relating to that weeks theme. They should aspire to have a link to scripture. A moment of prayer/reflection and link to going forth is to be included.
- The weekly themes for assembly and worship follow the cycle published on the calendar.
- The Staff Chaplaincy Lead provides guidance for students and tutors upon request. Resources are available to each form in the Prayer Boxes, replenished, explained and issued every September.

2. Assemblies

- Assemblies are an important opportunity for spiritual development through Collective Worship and prayer.
- Assemblies follow a cycle by year group and follow weekly themes as identified through the school calendar.
- Year Leaders ensure the delivery of weekly assemblies.
- Every effort should be taken to ensure students are actively involved in the planning and delivery of year group assemblies.
- Collective worship through assembly should be distinct from 'business' issues for the year group.
- Assemblies will follow the model of Gathering, the Word, Reflection and Mission.

3. Liturgies

- House Masses will be celebrated for a quarter of the student and staff population once a year for each House.
- Form Mass will take place following voluntary Mass on a Wednesday. The cycle will encompass Years 7 and 8 (Chaplain permitting).
- The whole community will be invited to a Mass of Welcome for Year 7 in September each year. This will be planned and delivered by the new intake.
- The whole community will be invited to a Leavers' Mass for Year 11 in June each year. Planned and delivered by the senior pupils, the event at St Anne's Cathedral will mark the end of a journey and start of a new one.
- Non Eucharistic Liturgies are celebrated throughout the year. These will include Advent/Christmas, distribution of Ashes and Reconciliation services during Lent and Easter and prayer during retreat opportunities.
- The planning of liturgies is done by students led by the Staff Chaplaincy Lead. Student participation is encouraged at all stages.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The main points of contact for staff seeking support are:

- The Staff Chaplaincy Lead
- Curriculum Leads for RE
- Chaplaincy Team

There is a resource bank to support prayer and collective worship. The Staff Chaplaincy Leads are available to discuss and support any plans or issues. Liturgies and Masses evolve as team events incorporating pupil input to all aspects.

The primary manner in which monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken is through learning walks by senior staff and feedback/evaluation sessions post event.

- Form prayers/collective worship monitored and evaluated by Year Leader and Senior Advocate through learning walks.
- Collective Worship – Assemblies by Senior Advocate and Year Leaders are monitored and evaluated by themselves.
- Liturgies/Masses – feedback and evaluation is invited from attendees and participants.

The Student Council is asked for feedback on each of the above. All of the evaluative work is done to inform development, improvement and training where necessary.