



# Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**“We try to keep at the front of our minds the teachings of Christ.**

**We put our faith into our practice by actively encouraging all to be involved  
in prayer, worship and liturgy.”**

### **SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **RATIONALE**

Collective Worship at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School aims to provide opportunities for pupils and staff 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 church.
- 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 Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. Everyone in our community is able to contribute to it and gain from it, regardless of level of belief and commitment.

#### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act and the DfEE Circular 1/94, Collective Worship at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together as a community through daily prayer in the classroom, through participation in weekly assemblies and through other liturgical celebrations. Furthermore, through Collective Worship we are able to encourage pupils and staff to reinforce positive attitudes they may have within their community. We also highlight and try to change negative attitudes within our society to encourage a common ethos and shared values amongst all, thus meeting fully the requirements of the law regarding worship.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

## **'SAFER SCHOOL, SAFER CULTURE'**

### **THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT CARDINAL HEENAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

- To reflect somewhat upon the mystery that is God.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the beliefs and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development with specific reference to the Catholic tradition.
- To respond to life's challenges and celebrate life's wonders and achievements.
- To give opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer.
- To explore, reflect on, express, affirm, or challenge commonly accepted personal and social values and individually held beliefs.
- To express our faith as a Christian community thus reinforcing the sense of belonging, the development of community spirit, the promotion of a common ethos and the reinforcement of positive attitudes.
- To provide staff and pupils with opportunities to worship God hence enabling individual and spiritual moral development.
- To offer pupils the opportunity to prepare themselves for challenges in their adult life.

### **TO FULFIL THE ABOVE AIMS WE WILL:**

- Ensure the Act of Worship is seen as part of the total curriculum, an integral part of the life of the school and seen to be important.
- Adopt an approach that is based on educational principles which aid the spiritual development of individuals. Therefore the form, shape and content will be educational.
- Respect the integrity of the individual, give the opportunity to participate creatively and encourage each to make an individual response to a shared experience.
- Build up accessible resource materials for use in assemblies and the daily act of worship.
- Endeavour to provide a physical environment that is appropriate to the provision of high quality assemblies (e.g. seating, music, focal point etc)
- Involve a wider combination of staff, pupils and relevant members of the community in assemblies.
- Provide an opportunity to review Collective Worship.

### **ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- The Act of Worship is a daily event – each year group is assigned a specific day of the week for assembly.
- The content of Collective Worship within assemblies is determined by the theme of that week in consultation with the Head of Year/Form Teacher/ Senior Management/Chaplain, (Collective Worship resources are distributed to all), although topical events, seasonal events and customs are adopted when appropriate.

## **'SAFER SCHOOL, SAFER CULTURE'**

- A variety of approaches are used within assembly e.g. poetry, music, scripture readings, drama, prayers, pictures, video clips, power point presentations, visiting speakers and personal testimony.
- Prayers, reflections, factual events and stories are used during form time, based on the Collective Worship pack provided by the Chaplain and additional resources provided on the "Collective Worship" section of Moodle which is continually updated and reviewed.
- Year Seven Welcome Masses have been celebrated annually but due to the restraints on the time of the local clergy, in consultation with them, we have changed the format to that of a service which the clergy are invited to take part in.
- A celebration during Advent and Lent takes place and involves students, staff, parents, governors and people from the local Pastoral Area.
- Services are provided in the Chapel on Holy Days of Obligation and during Advent and Lent.
- Retreats are offered to KS3 and encouragement and support is provided for KS4 and KS5 students to take part in the Archdiocesan retreats run by the "Animate" team and the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- The Chaplaincy team have an annual residential retreat which takes on a different theme each year and is used to review various aspects of the Catholic life of the school. For example, the school prayer, the Mission Statement etc.
- Special assemblies take place at Christmas and Easter for all pupils.
- Now that we are settling into our new building, there are plans to book and celebrate another school Mission Week in conjunction with the Animate team.

### **THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- Day to day moral issues
- Religious festivals, special days
- Cross curricular activities
- Annual events/anniversaries
- Aspects of the school curriculum
- The celebration of pupil achievements
- The inclusion of a variety of visiting speakers
- Class led assemblies