

# S Finbar's Catholic Primary School



St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School  
& Early Years Centre

## **Collective Worship Policy**

2024 - 2026

## Our Mission Statement

### In God's love we learn and grow together

Founded upon Catholic principles of; dignity, solidarity,  
the common good and peace,  
we aim to inspire and celebrate each child's spiritual,  
intellectual, emotional,  
physical and creative growth.

In our safe and caring environment, we share strong,  
positive relationships with each other as well as the  
local community. Learning about each other's lives  
locally and the wider world teaches us the value and  
unique talents of everyone.

We will achieve our goals by enhancing pupils' self-  
esteem, their self-respect, respect for others  
and for all of God's creation.



We will learn and grow together



## In God's love we learn and grow together

### Introduction

Collective Worship at Finbar's Catholic Primary School involves and includes all members of the school community in their own and other people's response to God. At St Finbar's, all children are given opportunities to learn about different forms and types of worship by participation. We welcome parents, families, governors and visitors to join us in our prayer and liturgy activities.

### Aims

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship at St Finbar's Catholic Primary School is:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God in an atmosphere of joy, happiness and friendliness
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to develop the capacity to listen, to forgive and to ask forgiveness
- to encourage participation and response
- to express gratitude
- to act together as a Christian community
- to promote a common ethos with shared values such as respect for others, truth, forgiveness and justice
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to teach children how to worship

### Legal basis for Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement (Education Acts of 1944 and 1988) that there is a daily act of worship offered for all pupils.

This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.

Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

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 (RE). Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Under the Education Acts, parents and carers have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents, carers and prospective parents will 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.

Should a parent want their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, they will need to put such a request in writing for the attention of the Headteacher.

## Roles and responsibilities

### Governors

Responsibility lies with the Governing Body, to approve a Policy for Prayer and Worship in the school, after consultation with the Headteacher.

### Headteacher

The Headteacher's role is to ensure that collective worship is provided for each child every day.

### Children

All children have an entitlement to take part in a daily act of worship. At St Finbar's we encourage children to plan and deliver their own worship at an age-appropriate level.

### Teachers

All staff have a duty to assist in the planning and delivery of meaningful acts of worship.

### Parents

Parents have a focal supportive role to play and example to set and are encouraged to participate in school collective worship.

### Parish Priest and wider Faith Community

The active participation of the Parish Priest and the Parish community is encouraged and welcomed.

## The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

St. Finbar's community is comprised from children and families with different lived experiences, faith and non-faith journeys. Collective worship in our school takes-into-account the religious 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 – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds. It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

## Collective Worship Opportunities

At St Finbar's Catholic Primary School we enjoy a range of prayer and liturgy experiences which may include:

- Whole School Collective Worship
- Class Collective Worship
- Hymn Practice
- Celebration Assembly
- Liturgy in response to key events in the Liturgical Year
- Mass
- Mass - Celebration of Feast Days, Celebration Masses
- Sacramental Celebration
- Opportunities for prayer

Collective Worship is a daily activity that is planned and structured in terms of time and content. Each day, children participate in the following acts of worship in a relevant and meaningful way:

- Morning Prayer
- Daily Class Collective Worship
- Prayers before and after lunch
- Home time Prayer

### The Four-Part Process

Our daily act of worship is structured and planned for in four parts:

1. Gather
2. Listen
3. Respond
4. Go Forth

Collective Worship can take place within whole school, key stage, classroom or small group setting. It can be experienced inside or outside the school.

### The Form of Prayer and Liturgy

Collective Worship will include a range of forms and types. There will be times when the worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and other times when it will involve lively music, laughter and dance. The format of Collective Worship needs to be creative and varied whilst being joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit-filled.

St Finbar's Catholic Primary School is made up of a variety of backgrounds and traditions. The organisation of prayer, liturgy and sharing should be sensitive to the religious, spiritual, personal and social needs and abilities of everyone.

### The Elements of Collective Worship

The following elements should be included in acts of worship opportunities:

- A clear focus or theme
- A passage from Scripture
- Links to the previous Sunday Mass
- Some time for listening
- Some time for reflecting
- Some time for sharing
- Some time for meditation
- Prayer, both formal and spontaneous
- Some time for stillness and peace
- A mission or a task to take away

### The Effectiveness of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is effective when some of the following is included

- A visual focus or artefacts – however, the image should not be so powerful that it is remembered rather than the message
- Scripture
- Music – which should be appropriately chosen to create the desired atmosphere
- A psalm
- Dance
- Drama

It is important to remember that in any Collective Worship opportunity, there can always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus upon the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

St Finbar's Catholic Primary School recognises the need to involve children as active participants rather than recipients and as such provides purposeful child led activity which may include setting up the focus table, choosing or leading with scripture and prayer, spontaneous intercessions or lighting/extinguishing candles etc.

### Typical Weekly Timetables of Whole School/Key Stage/Class Collective Worship

All opportunities for Collective Worship are currently led by either the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Class Teacher.

Day	Participants	Location	Leader
<b>Monday</b>	Y1 – Y6 N - R	Upstairs hall EYFS base	Deputy head Class teachers
<b>Tuesday – Thursday</b>	N – Y6	Classrooms or other suitable space	Class teacher
<b>Friday</b>	Y1 – Y6 N - R	Upstairs hall EYFS base	Deputy head and/ or Head teacher Class teachers

At St Finbar's Catholic Primary School, our Friday Collective Worship and Celebration of Achievements is separated out into two distinct parts:

1. Collective Worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher through celebrating a Come and See topic or a relevant Liturgical theme.
2. A celebration of the achievements and learning of the children during the week. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos and values of the school; being that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised

	Morning	Before lunch	After lunch	Hometime
<b>Monday</b>	Whole School Morning Prayer	Class Grace Before Meals	Class Grace After Meals	Class Night Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	Morning Prayer	Class Grace Before Meals	Class Grace After Meals	Class Night Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning Prayer	Class Grace Before Meals	Class Grace After Meals	Class Night Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning Prayer	Class Grace Before Meals	Class Grace After Meals	Class Night Prayer
<b>Friday</b>	Whole School Morning Prayer	Class Grace Before Meals	Class Grace After Meals	Class Night Prayer

## Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and Full Governing Body on an biannual basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other relevant parties.

**Reviewed and ratified by:** Full Governing Body

**Date of review:** 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

**Date of next review:** September 2026

**Policy Status:** Non-Statutory but recommended as good practise

**Policy cycle:** Biannual