



# ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE ACTS OF WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by	
Name:	Christina Battle
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	<i>C. Battle</i>
Date:	Sept 2025
Proposed review date:	Sept 2026

**“The joy of the LORD is your strength” Nehemiah 8:10**

**St John Henry Newman Catholic School Mission Statement**

Our mission is to educate our pupils in the wholeness of mind, body and spirit through the teachings of Jesus Christ as proclaimed by the Catholic Church by placing Him at the centre of their lives. We encourage pupils to cultivate Christian virtue and an appropriate sense of social responsibility. We support the spiritual and mental wellbeing of all our community on a daily basis.

Our school commits itself to the principles of Catholic education and academic excellence, leading our pupils from shadows and images to the fullness of the Truth, as envisioned by St John Henry Newman. We inspire an enthusiasm for life-long learning and are committed to success for all, ensuring that all our community has the highest aspirations to achieve the best outcomes in life.

## INTRODUCTION

St John Henry Newman Catholic School aims to provide an outstanding whole person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God. We achieve this through collective worship by ensuring that our school is a place where prayer and reflection are embedded throughout school life for both staff and pupils. Worship, prayer and liturgy are integral parts of the Catholic tradition and therefore they are central to our school, community and its character. This is expressed through opportunities for prayer and reflection (both privately and as a community), through assemblies, and through liturgies (sacramental and nonsacramental). Our worship as a Catholic school is integral to who we are and what we want to achieve. We seek to actively encourage the whole school community (pupils and staff) to share in the liturgical life of the Church and in so doing:

*"Promote and develop an appreciation of, and a more active involvement in prayer, worship and liturgy". (Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School)*

All pupils will experience prayer in a variety of forms throughout their school life. Many of the occasions will be voluntary, although pupils will be encouraged to participate through word and action. Each pupil will have opportunities to pray and reflect daily e.g. collective worship in class or tutor rooms, whole school prayer, weekly mass and year group assemblies. The whole school community is invited to reflect on personal, social and global issues and consider its responses to them

We believe:

- Our daily Collective Worship is an entitlement for all members of our community. It is their right to have daily opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Our worship as a Catholic school meets the expected legal requirements but more importantly it is central to our Catholic education and forms an essential part of our school's overall provision for prayer and worship.
- As a Catholic school, whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment, our worship must be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.
- A variety of experiences must be provided to all members of our community, influenced by students, staff and visitors, such as: quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts, Bible readings, short addresses.
- An appropriate, respectful atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion must be present during worship, including on entry and exit to liturgy.
- We respond to the issues of the day and people within our local and global community as well as to the liturgical calendar.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

### **AIM**

To nurture an environment in which, and provide opportunities for, the members of our school community to express their belief through organised and collective Acts of Worship

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Each school day will begin and end with a prayer
- The opportunity to attend Mass will be made available every week
- The school will provide opportunities to celebrate Holy Days of Obligation

### **RATIONALE Collective Worship is held for the following reasons;**

- To celebrate our Faith
- To provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God
- To provide Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic liturgical experiences
- To involve everyone in the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy
- To reflect upon our needs, hopes and common humanity
- To recognise each person's uniqueness and value
- To celebrate and educate the whole person, not only academically but morally and spiritually

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

All pupils will have the following opportunities to engage in acts of Collective Worship

- Experience 'The Way' in Form Time
- Pray together as part of 'The Way'
- Participate in Form Time Reflection
- Celebrate Form Time Mass
- Pray the lunch time Prayer (Hail Mary) together at the end of Period 3
- Pray the St John Henry Newman Prayer together at the end of the day
- Celebrate Feast Day Mass on Holy Days of Obligation
- Celebrate Mass as a Year Group
- Celebrate the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday if this falls in Term Time

### **GUIDELINES**

- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective Worship every day in Form Time or Assembly
- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective Worship every day at the end of Period 3
- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective Worship every day at the end of the school day
- The expectation is that every pupil will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a Form Mass, Assembly, Feast Day Mass and Form Time Reflection

- The expectation is that only pupils who have been Baptised in the Catholic Faith and have made their First Holy Communion will take an active role in the delivery of Readings, Bidding Prayers and Presentation of the Gifts during Feast Day Mass and where possible, Form Time Mass
- To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and The Way have been produced. Resources for The Way are available in the Chaplaincy section of the Departmental drive. All themes are based upon the previous Sunday's Gospel in line with the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church

## **EXPECTATIONS**

- Pupils are expected to participate in acts of Collective Worship in a respectful and reverent way
- Parents are expected to promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship
- Parents are given the opportunity to participate in acts of Collective Worship
- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the Collective Acts of Worship of the school
- Chaplaincy Leaders expected to ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- Chaplaincy Leaders are expected to ensure that there are opportunities for quality Collective Worship to be delivered
- Chaplaincy Leaders are expected to ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Collective Worship
- The Deputy Headteacher is expected to ensure that subject teachers end Period 3 and Period 5 with the appropriate prayer
- The Deputy Headteacher is expected to ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of Collective Worship in Form Time through the delivery of The Way
- The Deputy Headteacher is expected to monitor the quality of the acts of Collective Worship in Form Time
- The Deputy Headteacher is expected to ensure that staff have relevant, ongoing CPD in order to feel confident taking part in, leading and preparing acts of Collective Worship
- The Senior Leadership Team is expected to ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is fully implemented
- The Senior Leadership Team is expected to evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Collective Worship
- The Governors are expected to ensure that Collective Worship is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy.