

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

School Motto

*In love with Christ: Be the best I can. Be kind to one another.
Amen*



Mission Statement

As missionaries of our faith, our school community strives to embody the Christian values of St Cuthbert sharing in humility, spirituality, tolerance and kindness. Each individual is nurtured and celebrated within our inclusive and equitable setting; appreciating and embracing diversity within the world around them.

Collective Worship Policy 2025-2026

Chair of Governors	Pat Moloney
RE Link Governor	Denise Hegarty
Headteacher	Claire Bellis-Knox
Subject Leaders	Lauren Murphy
Review Date	October 2025

‘One of the most powerful forces on earth, is the prayer of a child’

Wess Stafford

He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14

We are currently in a transitional period awaiting the introduction of the new Prayer & Liturgy Directory: ‘To Love You More Dearly’ – we await guidance from the Archdiocese both practice and policy will be updated accordingly.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St. Cuthbert’s Catholic Primary School, provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. Our schools are a Catholic foundation and therefore, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, reflects and follows the traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart.

Collective Worship celebrates the presence of God in all our lives. It is an invitation to all our children, staff and families to enter into a relationship with God, which is personal and unique.

Collective Worship in our school takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those from supportive Catholic homes
- Those for who school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- Those from other Christian backgrounds
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Aims for Collective Worship

- To promote and develop an appreciation of more active participation in prayer, liturgy and worship, relevant to the age and experience of each child.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To be respectful and reverent towards beliefs of others.
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer.
- To develop links with the parish community.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To reinforce home/school/parish links.
- To foster a sense of wonder and joy in creation and to promote an understanding of responsibility for their world.
- To affirm and develop individual dignity.
- To give children the opportunity to build a personal relationship with God.

Legal Requirement

We acknowledge that there must be a daily act of worship 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 year or class groups.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is not to be subsumed under any part of the curriculum including religious education.

Forms of Collective Worship

1. Daily Collective Worship in Class

Each class gathers for a daily act of prayer and liturgy when there are no whole class assemblies or celebrations planned. This takes place as part of the class timetable; all classes have a focus table / area with various resources to support this. Sessions are linked to the Gospel Value and delivered by class teachers / children, reflective of the children's age.

2. Daily Prayers

Each class will say daily prayers. These will take place in the morning, at the end of the school day as well as before / after lunch.

3. Whole School Collective Worship

The whole school gathers for a weekly worship session planned and delivered by class teachers and children. Class Teachers are also responsible for the planning of Little Church, ensuring appropriate resources / scripture are shared allowing equity for all across our Collective Worship provision.

4. Whole School Celebrations

Throughout the year whole school celebrations will take place within our school, these include:

- St. Cuthbert's Feast Day
- Advent / Christmas Services
- Holy Week / Easter Celebration

5. School Community Masses / Services

An annual timetable is shared outlining Masses and Services to be led by our children along with Fr. Liam and our school community – they take place in school or our local parish (SC – St. Oswald's / SS- St. Sebastian's).

6. Stay and Pray

Throughout the academic year, each class invite parents and family members into school to share within 'Stay and Pray', these sessions are often based on Come & See Respond activities or Gospel Values.

7. Staff/ Governors Collective Worship

All staff / governors gather each month for Collective Worship. At times throughout the academic year, staff meetings begin with prayer often related to an event, the liturgical year or feast day where appropriate.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating of Collective Worship

Planned

- Using the accepted four-fold structure: gather, listen, respond and go forth.
- Containing the Word of God read from the Bible.
- Through references to the Church's season, significant dates and Gospel Values.
- With the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.
- Adequately resourced.

Recorded

- Through completion of Archdiocese planning document by both staff and children (where appropriate).
- Through weekly Twitter posts, prayers and photographs.

Evaluated

- By our school community on a regular basis (staff, pupils, governors and parents).

Monitoring

Collective Worship is monitored termly as part of the school cycle of monitoring and evaluation. This is led by the RE Lead, Collective Worship Committee, RE Governors and SLT.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Every effort will be made to ensure frequent discussion of the Collective Worship Policy and provision take place in order to further develop our Faith Community. This is a continuous process requiring a close partnership between teacher, pupils and the involvement of others as appropriate.

At St. Cuthbert's, we plan to provide all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, cultural background, academic ability, Special Education Need/Disability or vulnerability to achieve their full potential.

Policy Review

Policy Written: October 2025

Sent to the Governors: November 2025

Committee Responsible: Curriculum

Next Review: October 2026

Staff Responsible: Lauren Murphy