



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ is our teacher.

At St Bernard's we believe that all persons are created by God, unique and equal. We strive to create a caring Christian community in which we provide education based on Gospel values where all people reach their full potential. We aim to develop positive relationships with every individual and family, the parishes and the wider community.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"

John 10:10

Reviewed by:	T Neal (Chaplain), July 2025
Reviewed by:	A Riding (Principal), July 2025
Review date:	July 2026
Signed:	Sue Kelly, Chair of Governors

Section 1 Principles of Collective Worship Policy

1. Every effort will be made to give students positive collective worship experiences, based on sound educational, pastoral and liturgical principles.
2. Acts of Worship will prepare students for the liturgical life of the Church.
3. Acts of Worship will take into account, as far as possible, the age, aptitudes and backgrounds of the students.

Section 2 Implementation

2.1 All Acts of Worship should:

- give glory and praise to God
- be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants
- be kept to the point
- be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery

Each year group will have one assembly each week and on other days there will be a prayer in their form group.

Assemblies take place according to the published plan.

Individual Form groups may also come to the Chapel for prayer during Registration time if they wish to.

Section 3 Liturgy

3.1 The Celebration of Mass

Voluntary Mass is celebrated throughout the year as advertised. Each form group will celebrate Mass once during the year. Each Year group will celebrate Mass once during the year on or around the feast day of their year group Saint.

Students participate by:

- Proclaiming the readings and joining in with the responses at Mass
- Sometimes choosing the readings and theme for the Mass (depending on liturgical feast or season)
- Playing music and singing
- Writing and saying Bidding Prayers
- Bringing up the Offertory

3.2 Year 7 Welcome Mass

In Year 7 there is a 'Welcome Mass' which usually takes place early in the autumn term. Parents are invited and refreshments provided for them and the students after Mass. Preparation takes place by the Chaplaincy Coordinator.

3.3 Holy Days

Although few Holy Days now fall on a school day, when they do school Masses are celebrated in various groupings to accommodate the whole school population. These Masses are celebrated with as much solemnity, dignity and prayerfulness as possible and reflect the feast day. Teaching staff accompany their groups to these Masses and supervise them, ensuring students are quiet and respectful throughout. Staff may also be asked to assist as ushers at Communion time. Some Catholic staff who have been commissioned as Ministers of the Eucharist assist the priest in the giving of Communion or a Blessing. Where possible music enhances these celebrations.

3.4 Masses for other occasions

Because Holy Days rarely occur on school days, we look for other occasions to celebrate Mass. We try and meet together as a whole school three times a year, with other Masses and liturgies being held in house groups or year groups.

Examples are:

- Opening Mass in September (whole school)
- Welcome Mass for Year 7 and parents
- Mass of remembrance
- Epiphany Mass / New Year (whole school)
- Mass of the resurrection (whole school)
- Leavers Mass for Year 11

3.5 The Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Lent students will take part in a Reconciliation Service. Where possible this will be followed by the opportunity for sacramental confession.

3.6 Tutor group prayers on non-Assembly days

Students have an entitlement to Collective Worship every day but it need not be delivered through assemblies every day. On non-assembly days it is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to provide a prayer during morning Registration time. The Form Tutor may lead the prayer themselves or appoint a member of the form to do so. Prayer pockets are provided for each form by the Chaplain, as well as additional resources, as required, that can be used as aids to prayer and reflection. The St Bernard's school prayer is often used at the start of the day.

Form Tutors may use prayers composed by students. Form Tutors may also ask form members to compose prayers or sometimes students may wish to include personal intentions for prayer, in the style of bidding prayers. It is appropriate to include in the prayers themselves and their

needs and those of friends and family members including the sick, and to pray for the needs of the world, especially when there are wars or disasters. Form Tutors may use prayers or readings at their own discretion too. On other days a short period of silent prayer followed by communal saying of the Our Father or Hail Mary or Glory Be can be a helpful way to pray. There is a selection of formal prayers in the prayer pockets.

We also end each day with prayer. A short period of silent reflection on the day followed by a prayer can be a very good way to end the school day.

3.7 The Liturgical Year

Students experience the special feasts and seasons of the Church e.g. Advent, Lent, Pentecost at Assemblies and through special activities such as The Stations of the Cross, the Advent Wreath, hymns and prayers.

3.8 Monitoring

Monitoring of Collective Worship includes observations of collective acts of worship, discussions with those who lead worship, discussions or written feedback from those who experience worship. Monitoring is regularly undertaken by the Chaplaincy Coordinator and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Students and other members of staff present are also asked for feedback.

Review Arrangements

To be reviewed every three years.