



# Archbishop Beck Catholic College

Collective Worship Policy

*“Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches, or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. This is why there are so many subjects — because development is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body, and so on.”*

**Pope Francis**

*Adveniat regnum tuum: Thy Kingdom Come. The words taught by Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer. Archbishop Beck highlighted this sacred phrase as part of his mission and vision. A reminder that our actions determine our actions determine our journey with God.*

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the way Archbishop Beck Catholic College community engage in the prayer life of the universal Church. The policy is split into the following sections:

1. Theological Foundations of Collective Worship
2. Statutory Obligations
3. The Nature of Collective Worship
4. The Place of Collective Worship in the life of our School
5. The Aims of Collective Worship
6. Principles of Collective Worship:
  - ✓ Roles and responsibilities for Collective Worship:
  - ✓ Director of Catholic Life
  - ✓ Senior Leadership Team
  - ✓ Head of Religious Education
  - ✓ Progress Leaders
  - ✓ Form Tutors
7. Monitoring of Collective Worship
8. Sequencing of Collective Worship

### **1. Theological Foundations of Collective Worship:**

The Holy Father Pope Francis expresses his hopes for the faithful and reverent celebration of the liturgy throughout the Church. He invites us to be caught up in wonder and awe at the great gift which is offered by God and received by those who pray and worship through liturgy. He stresses the importance of formation for liturgical participation. He points to the vocation of all the baptised. The words of Pope Francis have a particular resonance in our Catholic schools, where our children and young people are formed in the art of prayer, learn about the mysteries of God, and grow in an understanding of their own unique call to mission. In our college, we offer staff and student the opportunity to explore their faith and hear the Gospel in a modern and welcoming way.

### **2. Statutory Obligations**

Within maintained schools and academies, there is a legal requirement for an act of collective worship to take place daily. Archbishop Beck Catholic College offers collective worship during form times and allocated assembly days. All staff have received training on Collective Worship as part of our inset day and feel clear on expectations; training has been given to those staff who are from a non-faith background yet appreciate the responsibility of working in a faith setting. An act of Collective Worship can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all

students, for example, a whole school liturgy/Mass, or separate acts of worship in school groups, such as year groups/RE classes.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However the headteacher has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere, e.g. church.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic College, parents 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.

### **3. The Nature of Collective Worship**

Chaplaincy and Collective Worship supports young people in one of the most complex environments in our society – the school. Our Chaplaincy ethos is to provide a safe, supportive and empowering influence. Faith leads our students to a greater understanding of themselves and their meaning and purpose in this world. St Paul explains that 'conscience is written on our hearts'; Collective Worship invites our students to be still, to listen and to discern what the message is that is within their hearts and soul.

The College is a strong community built on Gospel values. The Christian influence is palpable throughout the college and the foundations laid by St Bonaventure and Archbishop Beck are continued through the life of the college. We also base our everyday life on the mantra that 'only the best will do' so we weave these high expectations into our college life and into our Collective Worship.

The work of Chaplaincy intertwines with the College Chaplain and College counsellor who provides a listening ear, a comforting word and prayerful support. Chaplaincy places a high value on spirituality and as such, is an expression of truly holistic Youth Work practice, valuing the place of spirituality in the lives of young people and maximising the benefits of positive spirituality for their overall wellbeing, their development as good citizens their development as moral members of our community and to take the values given into adult life.

### **4. The place of Collective Worship in the life of our college**

At Archbishop Beck Catholic College, worship is far more than just a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of the College and to its all-encompassing moral and social development. It underpins our daily life, decisions and approach to policy making. Archbishop Beck Catholic College has a distinctly Catholic character and ethos. It offers us a framework for when we mourn and when we celebrate as a college. Archbishop Beck Catholic College tries to live as a family, with Gospel values at the heart of what we endeavour to achieve.

### **5. The aims of Collective Worship**

'A key dimension of our shared humanity is the quest for spiritual meaning. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, from an early age all human beings find themselves asking the 'big' questions about how to live a good life, of our place within the cosmos, and of God. For Catholics, the answer to these questions is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who 'in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love reveals humanity to itself'.<sup>18</sup> The example of his life and self-giving death forms the reference point to the questions about how to live life to the full and what our ultimate destiny might be. In practice, this translates into a living witness on the part of the Catholic members of the school: by their words, actions, and attitudes they echo the words, actions, and attitudes of their Lord. For some others, the response to these questions leads them to a position of agnosticism or atheism. However, many others find a response to these questions in the vast range of religious and spiritual traditions that are represented in our schools' (Prayer and Liturgy Directory)

- ✓ To contemplate something in the mystery of God
- ✓ To engage in the inner life of the spiritual journey
- ✓ To contemplate the Liturgical Year and engage in the seasons and rhythms of the Church
- ✓ To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- ✓ For students and staff to explore their own beliefs
- ✓ To respond to and celebrate life
- ✓ To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- ✓ To develop a common ethos and shared values

- ✓ To enrich religious experience
- ✓ To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- ✓ To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- ✓ To participate in faith
- ✓ To consider awe and wonder.

## **6. Principles of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in Archbishop Beck Catholic College is based on the following core practices:

- ✓ Reverence
- ✓ Witness
- ✓ Proclaiming
- ✓ Response

**Reverence:** Students treat Collective Worship as a time of stillness and reflection. There are periods of time created where both staff and students can discern and listen to the gentle Word of God.

**Witness:** each act of worship will begin and end with the Sign of the Cross in acknowledgement of the Triune nature of God and at our college we proclaim the Lord's Prayer together as a universal declaration of our faith.

**Proclaiming:** All members of the community will have the opportunity to listen to scripture and its meaning for today; this is read by staff and students.

**Response:** Through the invitation of 'we pray', all staff and students are asked to join in with the dedicated responses and to engage in song which we use in daily acts of Collective Worship.

Students are encouraged to participate fully in the Liturgical Life of the College in various ways:

- ✓ Individually, as a group or whole school
- ✓ Acts of worship led by the Chaplaincy Team.
- ✓ Liturgies led by form classes
- ✓ Form class prayers led by students or staff
- ✓ Inviting guest speakers into acts of worship
- ✓ Through stories/role play or dance
- ✓ Hymn practice
- ✓ Year 7 Dedication Service
- ✓ Retreats in year 7
- ✓ Lourdes Pilgrimage
- ✓ Remembrance Service
- ✓ Liturgies for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Feast of All Souls, All Saints, Archbishop Beck Feast Day, St Bonaventure Feast Day.

Collective Worship in our College will be:

- ✓ Properly planned
- ✓ Adequately resourced
- ✓ Monitored
- ✓ Evaluated

### **Roles and responsibilities for Collective Worship**

#### Governors

Those responsible for the governance of schools with a religious character are legally required to ensure that collective worship is provided and is in accordance with the trust deed or religious designation of the school. The Governors at Archbishop Beck Catholic College are fully invested in the faith character of the College and are dedicated to its development. Prayers are said at the beginning of each meeting and Collective Worship is at the forefront of the agenda as it is at the heart of our Catholic education.

- ✓ Governors liaise with the Director of Catholic Life regularly
- ✓ Governors attend Liturgical events such as the Year 7 Dedication Service
- ✓ Governors are involved in the recruitment of staff and are clear on the Catholic mission and vision of the College.

### Headteacher

The headteacher is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the prayer and liturgy policy agreed by the governing body. This is done by having oversight of prayer and liturgy in the school, and ensuring it is understood as central to the school's unique mission and is included in its development plan. They will do this in collaboration with other staff members, including the Director of Catholic Life and Chaplain at Archbishop Beck Catholic College, this is in conjunction with other members of the Religious Education team and the senior leadership team

### Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team help to coordinate the Catholic Life of the college by role modelling to other staff their participation in worship and the encouragement of the students to get involved in acts of Collective Worship. The Senior Leadership Team participate in Monday staff Collective Worship and are keen to be engaged in public acts of worship within the college.

### Director of Catholic Life

The Director of Catholic Life works closely with the Chaplain, Senior Leadership Team, Headteacher, staff and governors as she sets the tone for the implementation of Collective Worship. This is a new role in our college and is in its development stage. Our Director of Catholic Life leads inset for staff training, is involved in policy making and in the day to day running of the Collective Worship delivery. The Director of Catholic Life:

- ✓ Formulates the whole school Collective Worship Policy in line with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory of the Bishops of England Wales.
- ✓ Reports to governors on all aspects of Catholic Life and Collective Worship via Headteachers report to governors
- ✓ Report to local clergy on all aspects of Catholic life and Collective Worship.
- ✓ Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship through the whole College
- ✓ Provide whole school CPD on Collective Worship to experienced and new staff.
- ✓ Induct new members of staff into the whole school Collective Worship Policy.
- ✓ Quality assure Collective Worship resources.
- ✓ Create whole school monitoring and evaluation documents for the quality assurance and celebration of Collective Worship.
- ✓ Formulate the Section 48 CSED section on Collective Worship.
- ✓ Represent the College at Archdiocese Inset.
- ✓ Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through Collective Worship celebrations.
- ✓ Plan all aspects of the Retreat programme and Pilgrimage programme with the College Chaplain.

### Head of Religious Education

- ✓ Create and disseminate weekly Collective Worship resources to all staff
- ✓ Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the College
- ✓ Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through Collective Worship celebrations
- ✓ Identify staff who require additional bespoke CPD on Collective Worship
- ✓ Contribute to the Section 48 CSED on Collective Worship

### College Chaplain

- ✓ Create and disseminate weekly Collective Worship resources to all staff
- ✓ Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the College
- ✓ Lead in the musical life of the College
- ✓ Lead staff in weekly acts of worship
- ✓ Create resources for Form tutors to use with students

### Progress Leaders

- ✓ Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship
- ✓ Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through celebrations of Collective Worship
- ✓ Identify staff who require additional CPD on Collective Worship.

### Form Tutors

- ✓ Deliver daily acts of Collective Worship in line with the whole school Collective Worship policy.
- ✓ Attend all CPD relating to Collective Worship

### Staff Chaplaincy Team

- ✓ Lead and assist with Chaplaincy across the college and minister to other staff and students.
- ✓ Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the College
- ✓ Be available to assist in key events over the course of the year.

### Students Chaplaincy Team

- ✓ Be involved in the Faith in Action Pin Award.
- ✓ Role model best practice across the College to other students
- ✓ Read and participate in Collective Worship across the College
- ✓ Help to create the material for Collective Worship across the college.

## **7. Monitoring of Collective Worship**

Each form tutor has received Inset training on what effective collective worship should include. This includes:

- ✓ Using the weekly Presentations provided by the College Chaplain
- ✓ Using Our College Prayer, The 'Our Father'
- ✓ Ending the session with 'St Bonaventure and Archbishop Beck, pray for us, protect us, and bless us.
- ✓ Having an opportunity to be still and reflect.
- ✓ Staff are invited to ask for extra support if it is required and the Leader of Catholic Life can direct the staff member to what they might need.
- ✓ Students and staff are invited in small groups to reflect on their Chaplaincy experience in the college and in their individual form groups.

## **8. Sequencing of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is sequenced in such a way as to offer a wide range of prayer experiences in form time Collective Worship, assemblies, liturgies, retreats and pilgrimage.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Forms of Prayer and Worship</b>
7	Making the Sign of the Cross Being still Listening to scripture Reading from scripture Singing hymns Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age Participate in Liturgy Eucharist Year 7 Mass of Welcome Retreat Service of Reconciliation

8	<p>Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still for an extended period of time  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Singing hymns  Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age  Participate in Liturgy  Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation  Service of Reconciliation</p>
9	<p>Eucharist (To be developed)  Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still for an extended period of time leading to more contemplative experiences of prayer  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Singing hymns  Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age  Participate in Liturgy  Retreat  Pilgrimage</p>
10	<p>Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still and experiencing contemplative prayer  Praying the Rosary  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives  Singing hymns  Participate in Liturgy  Retreat (To be confirmed)  Pilgrimage (To be confirmed)  Leading drama &amp; dance in Liturgy</p>
11	<p>Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still and experiencing contemplative prayer  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives  Singing hymns  Participate in Liturgy  Leading drama &amp; dance in Liturgy  Leavers Mass (To be confirmed)</p>
12	<p>Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Participate in Liturgy  Retreat (To be confirmed)</p>
13	<p>Making the Sign of the Cross  Being still  Listening to scripture  Reading from scripture  Participate in Liturgy  Retreat (To Be confirmed)  Leavers Mass (To be confirmed)</p>