

St Boniface Federation



Collective Worship Policy

St Saviour's Catholic Primary School, Totland

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Ryde

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Carisbrooke

The policies of the Governors of the St Boniface Federation are intended to ensure that the children rejoice in their dignity as children of God and as a unique creation of God's love. The policies are written so as to support the most effective teaching and learning that we can provide. It is our intention that every aspect of school life will support this fundamental aim.

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| Signed on behalf of Governors: Alexandra Pettitt Chair of Governors Date: May 2025 | To be reviewed by: May 2027 |
| Revisions made: | Reviewed and updated to a federation policy |

The St Boniface Federation Collective Worship Policy

The St Boniface Federation schools exists to serve its Parishes and Communities by promoting excellence in academic, creative and spiritual leaning.

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church the schools seek to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure loved and respected.

The St Boniface Federation schools encourages all:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and recognise the person of Christ in others
- Through WITNESS to celebrate the gospel messages including justice and peace

St Boniface Federation is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centred curriculum, which develops independent learning.

Introduction:

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In our schools, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our Schools:

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship considers 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

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening.

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

The Aims of Collective Worship:

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles:

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic Character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Whole School Celebration of the Word, focussed on Catholic Social Teachings

KS2 Celebration focussed on the Liturgical Calendar readings

Whole School Celebration of the Word based on Sunday ahead

Class Celebration of the Word – a smaller more intimate personal response opportunity for the children.

Planning:

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Love you more dearly' and significant dates.

- Plans have been developed across all four Catholic Schools on the Island so that is a clear progression both of the provision of prayer as well as the scriptural development.
- Scripture will be the focus for all acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the schools' aims and Missions
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. They are shared through a Google Drive.

Eucharist:

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part of children's spiritual development and their understanding of how God is present amongst us.

Masses are arranged every half term and children and families are also invited to attend Mass on Sundays with children leading the Masses here at least termly.

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. This is led and managed by the Parish Priest and delivered by Parish based catechists across the Island.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors



Signed

(Chair of Governors) Date 19th May 2025



Signed

(Headteacher)

Date 1st May 2025

