

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Notre Dame Catholic College developed out of the Catholic Community's desire to educate its young people. It is supported by the Sisters of Notre Dame and inspired by the vision of St Julie Billiart. It welcomes the children of Catholic families, of other denominations and the children of families of other faiths or who profess no formal creed. All members of the community have needs, not least of which is the need for spiritual nourishment. This is based on our school mission statement "To do small things with great love". Collective Worship is one area in which that need is met.

## WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

All schools have a statutory responsibility to deliver a daily Act of Collective Worship. This policy clarifies for all staff, pupils and parents of Notre Dame Catholic College our aims and objectives with regard to Collective Worship.

## PURPOSES

- ❖ to provide frequent opportunities for all members of the school to reflect on and celebrate their beliefs and values and explore their faith in a dynamic and nurturing environment;
- ❖ to support the spiritual development of the staff and pupils;
- ❖ to provide a daily opportunity for reflection and prayer for pupils;
- ❖ to provide daily opportunity for staff prayer lead by members of the School Leadership team and the chaplaincy team;
- ❖ to provide opportunities for the celebration of significant events in the school and liturgical year with appropriate liturgies;
- ❖ to fulfil the statutory requirement;
- ❖ to nurture the charism of St Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame within our school community

## HOW DOES OUR SCHOOL RESPOND?

- ❖ the 1804 Society are a group of carefully selected sixth form pupils who share and live out the vision of St Julie Billiart through planned liturgical experiences; the pupils also have a trip to Namur, Belgium to experience the Mother House and fully experience the roots of the Notre Dame vision.
- ❖ the Chaplaincy group set up by pupils for pupils meet weekly and plan liturgical events and considers the spiritual needs of the school as a whole.
- ❖ the Chaplaincy group works closely with Nugent Care to aid the regular projects and to continue the relationship established between Fr Nugent and the Sisters of Notre Dame in Liverpool;
- ❖ opportunities for meditation are offered;

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- ❖ opportunities for celebration involve year groups and serve to highlight major feasts in the Church and school year;
- ❖ timetabled opportunities for reflection and prayer are available to small groups and are provided by the School Chaplaincy Team, Heads of Year and Heads of School;
- ❖ thematic Year Group assemblies on a weekly basis with a designated member of staff for spiritual reflection; this is supported by a weekly Prayer Sheet that is used by all form teachers.
- ❖ daily form periods incorporate an opportunity for reflection and Collective Worship;
- ❖ high quality resources are available on the school's IT system accessible to all staff; all weekly prayer sheets are available for parents and the local community to view.
- ❖ the school programme incorporates meaningful days of reflection, and liturgical and Sacramental celebrations for all staff and pupils;
- ❖ weekly meetings of the Chaplaincy team to review provision and plan future events;
- ❖ providing an area furnished to a high standard in a central location to emphasise the importance of Collective Worship for the life of our school;
- ❖ providing training and support for pastoral staff to enhance the quality of Year and Form group Acts of Collective Worship.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The policy on Collective Worship will be reviewed regularly in the light of the comments and experiences of members of the community.

The recent monitoring of the provision and quality of Collective Worship in the School Self Evaluation Form and the Section 48 Inspection was found to be outstanding.

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