



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND LITURGY POLICY

2024

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:2-4

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St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College- Collective Worship and Liturgy Policy 2024

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Mission Statement

To serve the Catholic and wider community by providing Sixth Form education of the highest quality and to act in the spirit of the Gospel believing that every person is loved by God and has a unique value.

1. The nature of Collective Worship

Worship in the Catholic college, is more than just a requirement. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. It involves giving glory, honour and thanks to God. It is an integral part of the college life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Christian worship in a Catholic college is our loving response to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

2. The place of Collective Worship in the life of St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community of the Church;
- Those for whom college may be their first and only experience of the Church
- Those from other Christian backgrounds;
- Those from other world faith backgrounds

3. The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship in St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College aims to provide opportunities for all students and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate God's creation, particularly in the dignity of man
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop a community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To engage in opportunities to use prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition

- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

4. Principles

Acts of worship in St Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the college and its Catholic character;
- Allow students the opportunity to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and backgrounds in order for them to feel confident in participating in the liturgical life of the college.

5. Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following the structure of the Church's seasons, Holy Days of Obligation, feast days including St Brendan's Day and significant dates e.g. Remembrance Day.

All students and staff are invited to participate and help with planning for these celebrations.

A variety of opportunities to join in prayer and Collective Worship are offered which are appropriate for both students and staff to join:

- Daily prayer and Gospel reflection each day at 8.30am in the Chapel
- Weekly voluntary Mass with Fr. Richard every Friday at 12.15pm
- Weekly reflections displayed on café screens
- Thought for the Day read at start of first lesson
- Twice yearly whole college assemblies with prayer led by Fr. Richard
- Leavers' celebration starts with a reflection led by Fr. Richard
- Student led Christian Union Bible-study group

There are also opportunities specifically for all staff:

- Weekly team briefing with reflection on termly college value
- Every INSET has a prayer and reflection to start the day
- First day of autumn term starts with reflection led by Fr. Richard

6. Provision for Act of Collective Worship post 16

Subsequent to the 2006 Education and Inspection Act the situation in relation to student post formal school leaving age in school or college if they are beyond formal school leaving age is:

Based on the 2006 Education Act on “Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance of worship”

(1) Section 71 of the SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance of religious worship, makes provision for exception and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows:

(1B) If a sixth-form pupil requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the pupil shall be excused.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including curriculum Religious Studies.

7. Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- In a prayer and liturgy folder within Chaplaincy, together with reflections and resources
- Through displays in the corridors, prayers on the electronic screens, reflections and staff and student bulletins

8. Evaluation

Evaluation takes place regularly through the Chaplaincy Team. Once a year the college’s provision for worship will be formally evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of the students through the SAR/QIP quality assurance process.

9. The coordinator for Collective Worship

The Chaplain, in coordination with the Head of RE, will design, lead and deliver Collective Worship in:

- Coordinating, developing, supporting and preparing liturgy and prayer in the life of the college;
- Supporting RPE and pastoral staff;
- Liaising with local clergy and organisations;
- Arranging residential retreats;

- Being a focal point for ethos and spirituality in the college;
- Developing opportunities for students to put their faith into action and raising awareness of social justice and peace.
- Be student and staff-facing and provide a venue for one-to-one spiritual direction
- Build community through social activities e.g. food and boardgames
- Maintain the chaplaincy library and offer advice and reading material for students and staff
- liaise with representatives of the Student Union and representatives of other faith communities