

Thomas More Catholic School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY PRACTICE and PROCEDURE

Mission Statement

To Care for, respect and value all people and our environment.

To Learn that justice and love are the foundations of our Faith.
To make these the guiding principles of our community in its commitment to academic excellence and personal integrity.

To Achieve beyond our highest expectations, creating challenging opportunities, which take us all confidently through the 21st Century.

This policy has been adopted by the Governing Body of Thomas More Catholic School, and is subject to an annual review

Date Reviewed	10 May 2016
Review Confirmed by	Chair, Personnel Committee
Next Review Due	Autumn Term 2017

AIMS

At **Thomas More Catholic School**, our aim is to provide students with opportunities to:

- place Christ at the centre of all activities and experiences
- offer the opportunity to develop their spirituality through reflective worship and prayer
- create a community where Gospel values are embraced by all
- ensure students receive a rounded educational experience which will enable them to take their rightful place in society, making a positive contribution, respecting others and their environment
- ensure all students are supported on their faith journey
- worship God through the Sacrament of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations
- provide all students with the opportunity to develop their own spirituality
- reflect on Gospel values and on their own beliefs;
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable students to take pride in themselves, celebrate their ethnicity, heritage and ability
- enable all to be nurtured on their own faith journey
- participate in the sacramental life of the Church

In partnership with parents / carers and Parishes, we aim to give students every opportunity to grow spiritually and be actively supported in their own faith journey; Thomas More Catholic School aims to support students in the development of moral principles by which they can live their lives and make choices with wisdom and compassion. Our aim is to create a sense of belonging throughout the entire community, staff and students, through the prayer life and liturgies offered.

Worship, prayer and liturgy are a part of our lives at Thomas More Catholic School and we seek to develop ways to celebrate the glory of God. We strive to ensure our students have a sense of awe and wonder about creation and we offer opportunities to celebrate the love of God.

STATUTORY DUTY

Practice

Thomas More Catholic School has a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship and this is offered through the weekly year group assemblies and morning and evening prayer.

Thomas More Catholic School is an inclusive community where all are respected and enabled to grow and develop spiritually.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is at the heart of all that TMCS stands for; it is part of our distinctive nature as a Catholic school. We will engender in our students a love of this and other Sacraments through regular celebration

Mass will be celebrated on:

- the Church's Feast Days
- at the start of the year for staff
- to welcome all Year groups to TMCS at the celebration of Mass for each year group in the Autumn Term and periodically throughout the year via class Masses
- Thomas More Feast Day

Prayer will be interweaved with every aspect of life at Thomas More Catholic School; all members of the community will be encouraged to see God in all aspects of life

Prayers are said at the start and end of each day by class teachers; students are encouraged to lead on prayers

Assemblies will recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our school.

In keeping with the practice of the Catholic Church all assemblies will:-

Start with the Sign of the Cross, inviting all those whose practice this is, to participate.

- reflect the aims of the School and foster a sense of shared values through prayer and worship
- follow the Church's liturgical calendar
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the students
- be valuable learning experiences and linked, where possible, to schemes of work, curriculum planning and events in the life of the school
- enhance, complement and extend the curricular work;
- provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the students;
- provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.
- include active participation by students, parents and members of the local parishes – either in preparation or in performance, where the talents of others are celebrated
- engender an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- provide a period of reflection from the busy life of the School, when students will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet.
- provide students with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words, through Scripture, great writers and prophets
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers;
- have a sense of occasion that separates this time from the rest of the School day.

Procedure

Daily prayers at the start and end of the day:

- may be led by students / staff
- should be quiet and reflective times
- should enable all to feel valued and safe

Assemblies will:

- be quiet and well ordered
 - be on a weekly rota cycle, led by SLT, Year Leaders and Form Tutors
 - the Church's Liturgical Calendar, as well as, the prayer life of students, will be explored and developed
 - offer students ownership of their prayer and liturgies
 - Assemblies will be planned to involve Music, Dance, Drama and to use these occasions to celebrate the glory of God
 - use the talents and gifts of students and staff to support the prayer life of our school
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- ✓ All Governors' meetings (full and committee) will begin and end with a prayer.
 - ✓ Whole school CPD days will start with a prayer