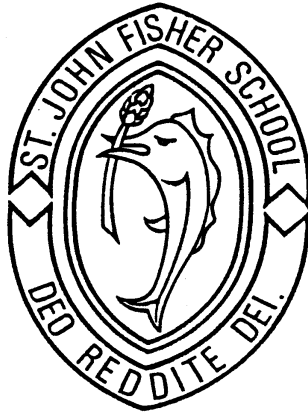


# St JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY POLICY (Draft)

Mission statement:

'St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally, forming them through Faith so they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community'

Date of Policy:	February 2023
Date of Ratification:	Due to be ratified March 2023
Date of Review:	February 2025
Owner:	St John Fisher

## Rationale:

The aim of this assembly and collective worship policy is to outline the aims, content, organisation and practice of assemblies and collective worship at St John Fisher Catholic Secondary School, therefore the school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Southwark, and in particular:

*'Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church; and at all times the school should witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (CES Ethos Statement for all Catholic Schools from 1999 onwards)

At St John Fisher Catholic Secondary School assemblies and collective worship are both a time when members of the school community come together to collectively give worth to promoting the aims of this policy through the Catholic faith.

Assemblies and collective worship are an important part of the St John Fisher school day. An assembly is held once a week for each Year group and is delivered by staff and students. They are planned with a sensitive approach so that notices, as well as the reinforcing of good practice by praise and the award of different awards, are linked into the theme of the assembly which in turn is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. Also, the daily act of worship is "wholly of a Christian character."

## Aims

The aims of assembly and collective worship at St John Fisher Secondary School are to:

- develop staff and students' faith formation through reference to the Gospel values and the schools Five Respects (Respect for Self, Others, God, Learning and Environment)
- promote students' sense of being a member of St John Fisher community
- develop students' personal qualities and attributes including their self-esteem, their sense of identity, their spiritual development, their openness and tolerance, and their ability to reflect on these qualities and other aspects of life's fundamental experiences.
- promote St John Fisher's commitment to equality of opportunity by celebrating, giving value to, and learning about different ethnic and faith groups, in particular those represented within the school community.
- promote students' understanding of the annual cycle of the Catholic Liturgical Calendar and non-religious celebrations.

- promote students' moral development by exploring values and qualities that can be supported by both members of the St John Fisher community and by the wider community.
- provide an opportunity for praise and celebrating success and achievement through 'Behavue'
- develop students' contribution to and leadership in classroom prayer and assemblies. These opportunities help to develop the students' personal prayer life and their relationship with God
- attend holy days of obligation throughout the Catholic calendar year by all year groups either at St Michael's Church or in the assembly hall.
- promote the overall aims of the school as agreed by governors

## Content

The content of both assemblies and collective worship is dignified, moral and thoughtful. Predetermined themes are planned at the beginning of the year in accordance with the Catholic annual calendar.

It is usual for there to be music playing as the students enter the assembly hall.

A short talk by the Head of Year focuses on praise and messages that may need to be given out.

The person(s) leading the assembly enables a shared experience and student engagement through the content of the assembly theme. Every assembly, through poems, prayer, song and reflection and various textual passages from the Catholic teachings enhances and reinforces a Catholic ethos, along with underpinning gospel values and St John Fisher's Five Respects

St John Fisher Catholic School assemblies create an atmosphere for spiritual, moral, cultural, and social development to take place.

## Organisation

### **Form Tutors**

Tutors promptly lead their students to the assembly hall from morning line up.

### **Head of Year**

The Head of Year coordinates entry of students to the assembly hall and begins the assembly with any messages and or praise.

The Head of Year will light a candle before the assembly and collective worship begins as a symbol of Jesus Christ being welcomed into our lives and to our collective worship

### **Person(s) leading the assembly**

The content of an assembly will focus on any of the aims outlined in this policy that link appropriately with the Catholic calendar (please see school Assembly Rota).

### **Practice**

The following practices and resources are prepared and reviewed annually by the Chaplain to facilitate collective worship.

- Appropriate artefacts (crucifix, candle) create a focal point for worship in each Tutor room.
- Thematic calendar for assemblies issued annually
- Support from Chaplain to students and or staff preparing collective worship.
- Observations of form time focusing on prayer expectations.
- School chaplain to liaise with local Priests to celebrate Holy Days of Obligation.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform.