



St Ambrose College

Collective Worship (Liturgy) Policy

Reviewed / Approved	To be reviewed
November 2019	November 2021

St Ambrose College Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

At St Ambrose College, we will follow the example of Blessed Edmund Rice and his vision for education as laid out in The Eight Essentials.

We will provide a rounded, holistic and transformative Catholic education enabling all boys to grow in faith and reach their full potential as well educated, disciplined, compassionate and empowered young men who strive for excellence and justice in all that they do.

With the Gospels and the spirit of Blessed Edmund at the heart of what we do, staff, pupils, and families will partner together to celebrate the talents and individuality of all in our community and produce resourceful and resilient Ambrosians, equipped to make a positive impact in the modern world.

The Statement & Collective Worship/Liturgy

Our aim at St Ambrose College is for all boys to grow in faith and be transformed through their experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Everything undertaken at the college can be linked back to our mission statement and collective worship is no different. The gospels and the spirit of Edmund Rice are evident in the distinctive ethos which permeates all dimensions of life at St Ambrose College.

The Church calls all the faithful to “active participation” in the Liturgy. Primarily, this means participation in mind and heart, but the Church recognises that, especially for children, physical participation, alongside good catechesis, aids that involvement. In our College we seek to nurture this spiritual development within the college and good preparation of appropriate involvement within the Mass and other liturgies.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Ambrose College should be central to the life of the school and a feature of every school celebration. Worship should be inclusive, educational and spiritual. Worship should be relevant to pupils’ experience, involve them as participants and foster a sense of community within the school. Collective worship reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church, whilst taking into account the spiritual and education needs of all who share in it. In line with OFSTED guidance, we aim to support pupils with different religious beliefs in their prayer rituals.

Worship should be linked to curricular activities and allow pupils opportunities to reflect on the educational aims of our school and should provide opportunities for individual reflection in an atmosphere conducive to the consideration of the transcendent and sense of mystery. Ultimately, collective worship should be meaningful.

Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into practice with the duty to serve, echoed in several of The 8 Essentials of Edmund Rice Education. The advocacy work of the

Edmund Rice International group is an example of our students responding to Catholic Social Teaching.

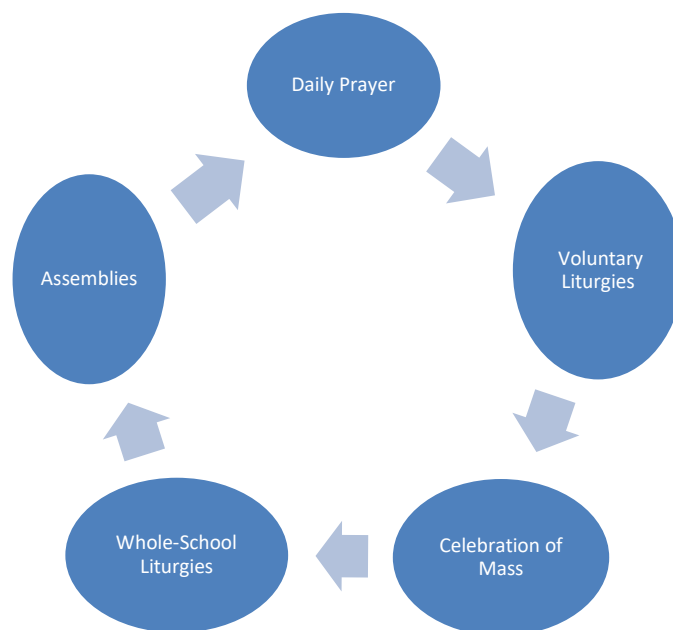
The role of the Chaplaincy Team

At St Ambrose College we believe that worship is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical life of the college is organised and monitored by the Chaplaincy Team together with the local clergy. To assist tutors in leading collective worship the team also provides prayers and reflections each week, often relating to the liturgical year.

Designated time is given to the team to work with students in their preparation. Composed primarily of RE specialists, individual staff are allocated additional non-contact periods to allow them to focus on and develop aspects of the Catholic life of the school. The team always takes into consideration the religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in worship.

The Chaplaincy Team is also responsible for developing a programme of retreats as well as a detailed programme of events giving students the opportunity to show service to others through acts of charity and advocacy. Currently, external retreats are attended annually at Castlerigg Manor and The Marist Centre in Chorlton by Key Stage 3 students. Key stage 4 students participate in internal, staff-led retreats during Activities Week, with the 6th Form students participating in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes

Liturgy in St Ambrose College falls into five categories



Daily Prayers

'Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is of prime importance, however, that sound educational and pastoral principles determine the ways in which these are experienced in the school community'

Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Roman Catholic School, Third Ed. 1994, CES

The college day begins with prayer, which is central to our life and work in this Catholic College. At St Ambrose College, we believe that our community can be made distinctive by:

- praying with students
- helping students to reflect on their prayers;
- encourage students to create their own prayer
- enable students to participate in the liturgy;
- foster a quiet and prayerful environment;
- celebrate prayer and learning through assemblies;
- participate in staff prayer (including a rota involving all staff for whole staff briefings);
- working with the parish communities;
- sharing with students in Eucharistic and other liturgical celebrations.

The college planner and staff handbook include a selection of prayers including new prayers for the beginning and end of the college day as well as a prayer which has been written alongside the college Mission Statement and echoes its themes. Prayer resources are available to all teachers. With these prayers to hand, staff are expected to lead prayers at the beginning of each day and at the beginning of lessons.

At various times during the year, the Chaplaincy Team will develop resources to be used by tutor groups (encouraging the lead to be taken by students) through a rota of chapel use and use of the college's chapel. Examples include remembrance services in November and opportunities to reflect on reconciliation and choices during Advent & Lent.

School Masses

School Masses are held every Thursday as well as for other special occasions such as St Ambrose Day. The weekly Thursday morning Mass in the central atrium is led by different tutor groups who have responsibility for preparing and contributing to the celebration.

For other Masses, the prayers, readings, music and various liturgical presentations are organised by the Chaplaincy Team in conjunction with the local clergy, who continue to support the liturgical life of the school.

School Liturgies

There are occasions when it is more suitable to organise a non-eucharistic or para-liturgical services. Once again, the Chaplaincy Team will prepare an appropriate liturgy, often assisted by other departments but crucially, involving a growing Liturgy Group made up of students.

Student led collective worship includes:

- Thursday Thought (6th Form students deliver to KS3 & KS4 tutor groups)
- Rosary group
- Advent/Lent faith liturgies and/or reconciliation services

Assemblies

A College assembly rota is produced each year that includes assemblies organised by a combination of staff and students. This rota mostly follows the liturgical calendar (which includes all the main feasts of the Church's calendar) and themes are calendarised to assist those leading the respective assemblies. Other themes relate to elements of RSE/PSHE.