

ST CUTHBERT MAYNE SCHOOL
Joint Catholic and Church of England 11-18 Comprehensive School
Dioceses of Plymouth and Exeter



St Cuthbert Mayne School
Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by Governors: October 2025

Shared with Full Governing Body: December 2025

Next Review Date: October 2026

Introduction

As a joint Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided school, St Cuthbert Mayne's distinctive character is laid out in the School Covenant and Vision Statement. A daily act of Collective Worship is part of our everyday life in school, and all members of the school community are invited to experience worship. Collective Worship at St Cuthbert Mayne School reflects the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England.

The school community includes students, staff, governors, parents, and carers, with links to the parishes of our students, staff, and families.

Our Vision

At the heart of our school is our distinctly Christian vision:

'Educating for life in all its fullness'

John 10:10

It is our ambition to provide an inspirational Christian education that challenges, nurtures and enables all members of our school community to flourish so that they can live life to the full both now and in the future

Knowing Our Community:

In John's Gospel, Jesus' works are signs of life in all its fullness. He heals the sick, feeds the hungry, and raises the dead, embodying the Good Shepherd who protects, provides, rescues, and lays down His life for His sheep (John 10). Jesus offers not just life, but abundant life, enabling His sheep to flourish and experience His goodness.

Understanding Our Community:

In His first miracle, Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:11). This act, benefiting the hosts and guests, went unnoticed by many, yet some disciples saw and believed. Similarly, the community at St Cuthbert Mayne reflects this diversity: many may enjoy the benefits without recognizing their source, while others, with our guidance, will trace them back to their origin. Regardless of acknowledgment, our actions are seen by our Father in Heaven.

Serving Our Community:

Jesus, known as Rabbi (Teacher) by His disciples, breathed His Spirit into them and sent them forth (John 20:21). Our mission as a Christian school aligns with this calling, as we teach young people and bring life in all its fullness, just as Jesus did.

Core Values

To have integrity and be courageous, compassionate, and creative. These core values underpin how we work as a School Community and the values we look to develop in all members of the Community.

Integrity: 2 Corinthians 8:21 - "For we aim at what is honourable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man." We choose that which best demonstrates our love for the created order and the Creator.

Courageous: Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." God promises to be with us as we face the challenges of each day.

Compassionate: John 13:34-35 - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another**." We are called to reflect the love of God as peacemakers and those who desire the restoration of those who are suffering.

Creative: Genesis 6:14 - "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch." God calls us to be inventive, resourceful, and visionary.

Aims of Our Collective Worship

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and ethos of the school. In doing so, it will reflect on the core values of the school and develop character and contribute to academic progress.
 - Help all members of the community to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
 - Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all members of the community to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
 - Enable all members of the community to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Catholic and Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
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Context of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Cuthbert Mayne School occurs in various settings to provide diverse worship experiences:

- Weekly year group worship led by SLT, HOY, or visitors
 - Tutor group worship during tutor time
 - Reflection journals for students in Years 7-13
 - Special whole school acts of collective worship for occasions like Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week and the feast of St Cuthbert Mayne
 - Regular Eucharistic worship for both Roman Catholic and Church of England traditions on Holy Days of Obligation
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Characteristics of Collective Worship

At St Cuthbert Mayne School, it is our ambition that daily acts of Collective Worship are Invitational, inclusive and inspirational. Collective Worship includes the following ingredients:

- A theme for the week
 - A Bible reading linked to the theme of the week
 - An opportunity for prayer
 - An opportunity to reflect and ask questions
 - An opportunity to develop spiritually
 - An opportunity to Journal
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Leadership, Management, Legal Responsibilities, and Governance

The 1988 Education Act requires daily collective worship for all registered students.

Governing Body:

- Ensure the policy meets legal requirements of Section 48 of the Education Act. .
- Recognise the right of parents to withdraw their child from collective worship.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship.
- Regularly review and update the policy.

Headteacher & Senior Leaders:

- Implement the policy and achieve its aims
- Serve as a role model for collective worship
- Collaborate with the governing body to monitor and evaluate worship

School Chaplain:

- Role model for collective worship
- Coordinate, plan, and deliver worship with youth workers, local clergy, and others
- Support tutors and provide INSET opportunities
- Encourage student leadership and participation in worship
- Monitor and evaluate worship

Pastoral Leaders

- Implement the policy and achieve its aims
- Serve as a role model for collective worship
- Ensure daily opportunities for prayer, worship, and reflection
- Collaborate with the senior leaders and the chaplain to monitor and evaluate worship

Tutors:

- Implement the policy and achieve its aims
- Role model for collective worship
- Ensure daily opportunities for prayer, worship, and reflection
- Offer varied Christian worship experiences through a weekly programme

Policy Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually in consultation with the headteacher, staff, parents, and carers to ensure its appropriateness and effectiveness.

Policy Statement

Collective Worship at St Cuthbert Mayne School is central to our life and vision. It is well-planned, high-quality, and engages the whole school community in exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. We believe that Collective Worship is relevant and essential for all students to flourish.

Legal Requirements

Daily acts of collective worship are mandated for all maintained schools, reflecting the Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions at St Cuthbert Mayne School. The governing body ensures compliance with this legal requirement and monitors worship impact with the headteacher.

The Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship. We aim to make the distinctively Christian ethos clear upon induction, hoping parents will choose the school knowing this. Parents wishing to withdraw their child should discuss their concerns with the headteacher. Suitable arrangements will be made without additional cost to the school.

Provision for students of other faiths

We respect all those students and staff in our community of other faiths other than Christianity as expressed in Catholicism, Anglicanism or other expressions. We however do not have a dedicated provision for them should they wish to opt out of our inclusive Collective Worship. Parents who wish to take their children to the mosque or another place of worship once a week can write to the head teacher who will grant such permission.

Cross of Nails

St Cuthbert Mayne is an International Cross of Nails School (ICONS), committed to reconciliation and bridge-building. We focus on:

- Healing the Wounds of History.
- Living with Difference and Celebrating Diversity.
- Building a Culture of Peace.

We create opportunities for reflection on these themes in collective worship.

Approval

This policy is reviewed annually by the Ethos Committee and approved by the Full Governing Body of St Cuthbert Mayne School.