



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL
Wimbledon

Collective Worship
Policy

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URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL, WIMBLEDON

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. Aims and Objectives

- To help build a caring and supportive community within the school built on the Catholic values of love and respect for all.
- To promote the beauty and uniqueness of each person as a child of God.
- To offer moments for all to stop, think and pray
- To facilitate faith and spiritual development
- To introduce a variety of formal and informal prayer settings
- To celebrate special moments of school life and the Church year
- To provide opportunities for all to be aware of God's spirit at work today
- To help students live out the school motto "SERVIAM" – I will serve
- To encourage students to develop their gifts and talents for the good of others, especially the less fortunate and most needy.
- To develop an individual and social moral consciousness especially focused on justice and peace.
- Diversity as catholic

2. School Services, Prayers, Assemblies and Liturgies

Worship has a central place in the life of the school community. Each academic year has a theme which link to the Ursuline Education Community virtues which are; United in Harmony, Grateful & Generous, Listening & Attentive, Loving & Compassionate, Faith-filled & Hopeful, Courageous & Resilient, Discerning & Joyful, Leading for Justice, acting with truth & integrity And serviam. This theme is introduced in the start of year Mass and then developed throughout the year in daily worship, retreat days and services. A daily act of worship takes place during morning registration in Tutor Groups or Year Assemblies.

Most mornings, there are prayers in the chapel led by students according to Key Stage and form. Guidelines for the prayer services are made available by the Chaplain and classes are encouraged to be creative in choice of theme and form of presentation. Very often students in particular use their musical and IT skills here.

Masses are celebrated for all year groups at key moments of the academic year: in September – Masses of the Holy Spirit, in October – the Feast of St Ursula, in January – the Feast of St Angela and in May – Yr 11 and 13 Leavers' Masses, in July – Thanksgiving Masses linked to themes and virtues. Students prepare and lead the reflection and bidding prayers. At times charity offerings are also brought up by students during the Masses. Various symbols are used according to the theme; these include candles, flowers, chosen objects, or foreign languages. One of the school choirs takes part in these Masses. Voluntary lunchtime Masses are held in the school chapel on Holy Days of Obligation. A number of sixthformers and staff members serve as Eucharistic Ministers as necessary.

A staff Mass takes place on the first day of the academic year and on special occasions. Staff pray together three times a week, and occasional services have also been held eg. for bereavement

Special assemblies/services for the whole school take place for Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week / Easter. The Head teacher, Assistant Heads and Year Heads lead assemblies, sometimes with the participation of students. Hymn practice also takes place during assemblies.

Depending on the availability of priests, students in Years 7 to 10 are given the opportunity of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation **year 9 and 10 during advent and year 7 and 8 during Lent**. Themed reconciliation services with an Examination of Conscience are held in the hall and then students are able to approach a number of priests from the area and feeder parishes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The vast majority of students take the opportunity to receive this Sacrament and the feedback of these services is always excellent.

Voluntary prayer services are sometimes held during lunch break or after school in the chapel: All Souls' Day, Remembrance Service, for Justice and Peace in the world, remembering the demise of a student, etc.

Prayers are said at the start of all Parent Information Evenings and Year End Celebrations. Parents are also invited to participate in our school Masses and special assemblies.

Members of the RE Department, in co-operation with the lay chaplain, sometimes bring the students over to the chapel for prayer experiences. Reflective services are held for all KS3 students, class by class, during Advent.

One day retreats are held for all year groups, **Years 7 and 11 have a whole year group retreat where years 8, 9, and 10 have population retreats** these are normally at Sacred Heart Parish. Led by the Lay Chaplain liaising with the head of year and PSA. These are organised with different themes, **linking to Catholic social teaching**, according to the year group.

Sixthformers follow a Faith Development Programme with one Faith Day each term. These offer space for prayer and reflection on a wide variety of issues. They incorporate the themes of **'Who do you say I am?', Learning about other Faiths "Turning Faith into Action", "Living out your faith in a non-Faith environment"** (Joint with Wimbledon college), **Life's Journey**. In each session there is the opportunity of hearing from outside speakers, reflecting upon the theme and praying.

Year 12 students who take part in a serviam enrichment activity take part in the Avila partnership retreat. This retreat day focus on faith in action and living out catholic social teaching through workshops, speakers and times of prayer.

The chapel is open all day and students are encouraged to use it for their own private prayer. It is also used during break times as a meeting place to help organise liturgical services as well as charity initiatives when necessary.

Our school also shares in events with the wider Ursuline family as part of the Ursuline Education community. The year 7's are taken in an exchange with St Angela's Forest Gate for our Insieme days. **Our chaplaincy team meets with Ursuline academy Ilford at their chaplaincy residentials. The year 7 chaplaincy team have a moving up retreat with year 6 students from Ursuline Prep at Aylesford Priory.**

Catholic schools youth ministry Australia (CSYMA) Mission Team visited Ursuline in the summer term of 2017, 18 and 19 and worked with years 7 – 10. The team ran dramas, games, prayer and reflection on themes such as 'journeys'.

During Covid – 19 the chaplaincy activities were delivered online. Each day an act of kindness was sent out with the daily prayer. A whole school passion service was uploaded as a PowerPoint for students to watch at their allotted time. Two year 12 faith development days took place under the themes of Learning about other Faiths and "Turning Faith into Action". The places of worship faith day were delivered by students watching zlogs of places such as, Mecca, The Vatican and The Taj Mahal and completing a trip advisor review. Our year 9 retreat took place on the theme of finding hope and students uploaded flip grid videos of messages of hope. We also have our year 7 retreat on refugee week. The year will end with a school Mass delivered live on Microsoft teams.

3. Responsibilities and Resources

The responsibility for the provision of collective worship lies with all members of staff, especially the school leadership team, year heads and form tutors. The role of the Lay Chaplain is to provide a theme and thought for each week and relevant prayer sheets are made available to staff and students in the staff room and registers each week. These take into account the Sunday Liturgical readings / theme, any significant religious feasts (including those of other religions) and any special anniversaries including current events in the news.

Each classroom in the school has a crucifix. The chaplain can be consulted re the preparation of assemblies and Morning prayers, as well as all charity initiatives and SERVIAM opportunities. The Lay Chaplain is also available to assist and advise form tutors and work with students when they are facing some difficult moments eg. the demise of a relative.

The Chapel is located on the ground floor of the main building. It is always open, easily accessible and used regularly by students and staff. **The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the Chapel.**

Students in Sixth Form are appointed Chaplaincy and Charity Prefects. **Every class has a chaplaincy rep which come together every fortnight for meetings and to help organise the different liturgies and take on board any upcoming charity activities.** They liaise with their form group and the Chaplain. Student volunteers then come together to organise specific liturgies or charity initiatives. Some of these activities are organised and led by the prefects from time to time.

Each year a number of Yr 12 students are prepared and commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. Every few years staff members are also prepared and commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. These help out with the distribution of Holy Communion during Masses and the distribution of ashes during the Ash Wednesday services.

The Head of Music is responsible for music liturgy and liaises with the lay chaplain. The school has a number of different choirs. Older students tend to come forward to sing as soloists or in small groups. Musicians also participate in the school liturgies.

Priests from feeder parishes celebrate the school Masses and are very supportive of the work that the Chaplain does in school. The Chaplain keeps in contact with the local parishes. The Chaplain works closely with the Youth Minister at Sacred Heart Parish and also links up with the Chaplain at Wimbledon College **and St Philomena's and the Ursuline links worker as well as Ursuline and**

Southwark chaplains through regular meetings and contacts. As a school we are a member of the Avial partnership with St Philomena's and work closely on formation with our joint assistant head teacher. The Avial partnership runs a CPD programme called 'What makes great catholic schools?' for the schools of Southwark diocese. A book is being produced in conjunction with this on new styles of liturgy and liturgy without a priest.

The Senior Leaders and Head of Years constantly give verbal feedback to the Chaplain re collective worship, Masses and services. Some students fill in feedback sheets after chapel services, Masses, the Special Assemblies and the Reconciliation Services.

There is a Sixth Form Faith Development Team made up of the Head of Years for Year 12 and 13, the Chaplain. The team meets every half term to plan and evaluate the Sixth Form Faith Development Days.

Our link governors from the ethos committee come into school for visits our current link governor is Lisa Thefaut. A number of Governors, members of the Senior Leadership Team and RE staff as well as the Chaplain each year participate in the Ursuline Education Conference. The Headteacher attends the termly meetings for Heads of Catholic schools and the yearly conference. The assistant head for ethos is a member of the Ursuline Education community and attends the working party meetings. The Chaplain attends the termly diocesan meetings for Chaplains and the Annual ACCE Conference. These all offer elements of religious formation as well as aids to the professional undertaking of our roles.

Alana Murphy
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