

Collective Worship Policy



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School
Autumn 2019

Mission Statement

*“Learn to love,
love to learn.”*

By using and referring to our mission statement and its aims and objectives on a daily basis, we can ensure that we are building a strong Christian Community where all children and adults feel valued.

The Nature of Collective Worship

'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

It is the responsibility of every Catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- Names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience.*
- Is educative.*
- Is within our Catholic tradition.*

We must recognise a parents right to withdraw their child from the legally required daily Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

It involves

- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways; through prayer, liturgy (both sacramental and non sacramental) and through daily acts of worship. Collective Worship strengthens our Eucharistic community which gathers to give witness to Jesus Christ

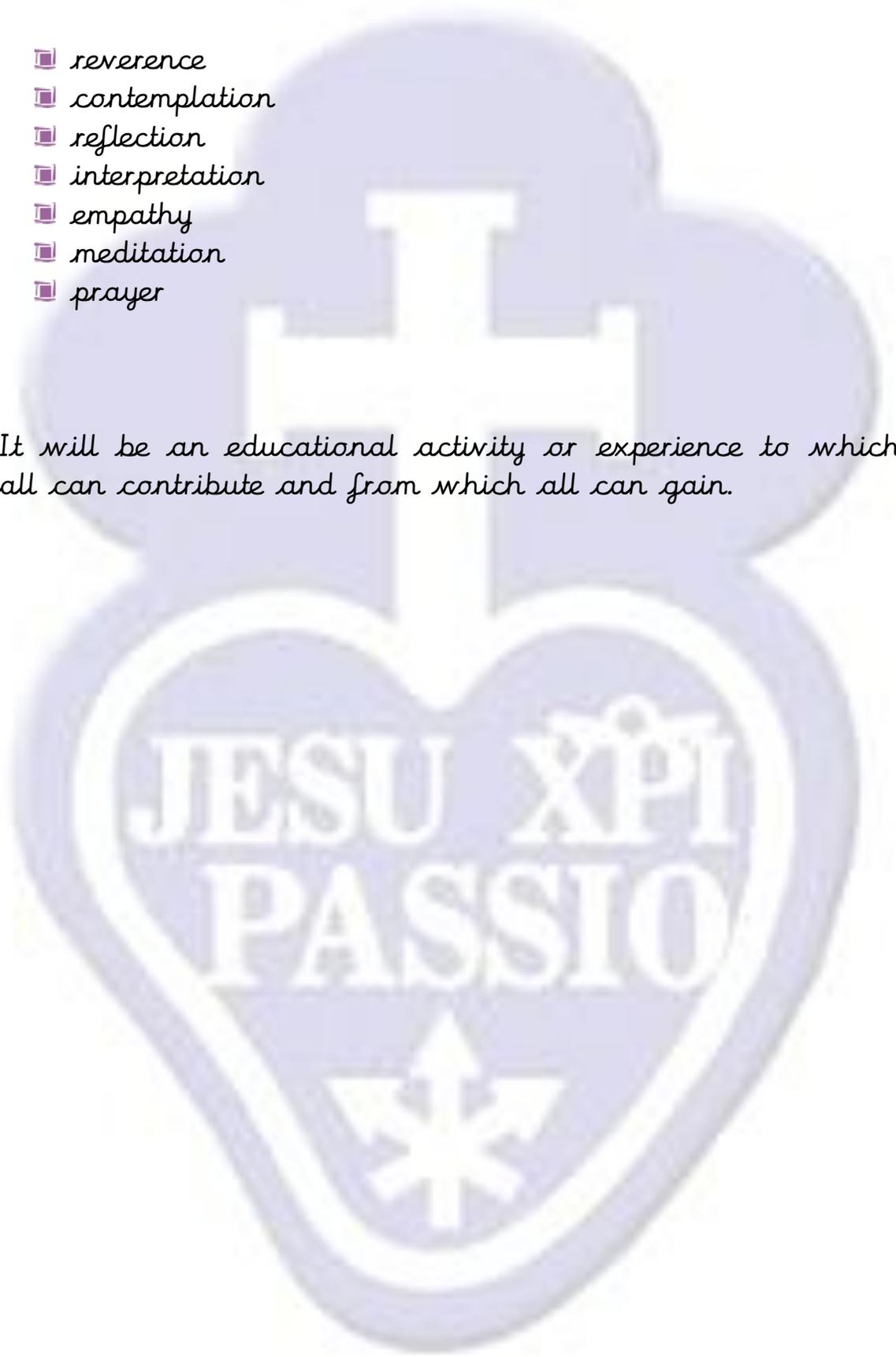
The purpose of these experiences is:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Through Collective Worship experiences we aim to develop the skills of:

- *reverence*
- *contemplation*
- *reflection*
- *interpretation*
- *empathy*
- *meditation*
- *prayer*

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.



Collective worship in practice

Collective Worship times should :

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 3- 4 minutes for Foundation Stage, 5-6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes for Key Stage 2);
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

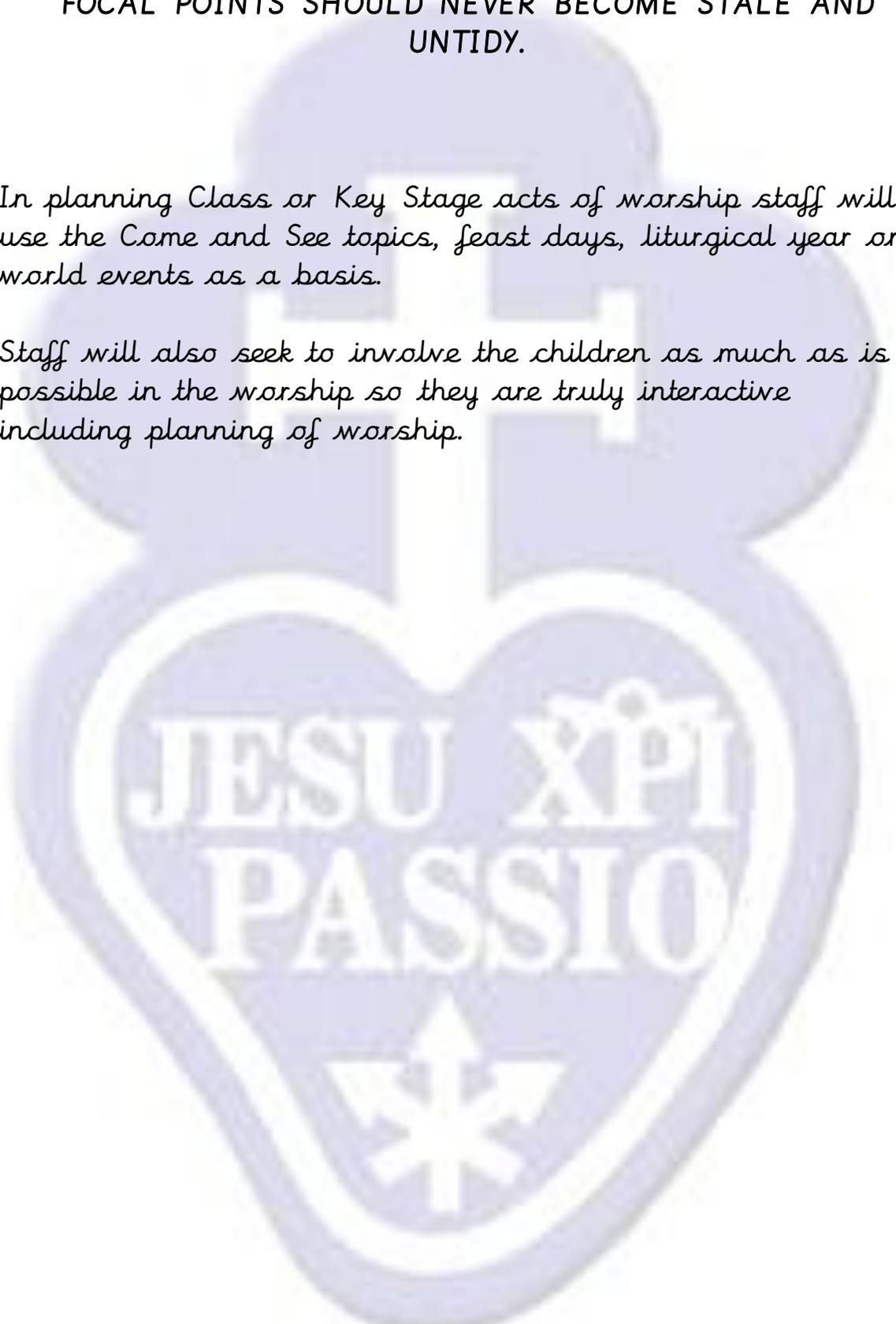
Guidelines

Every class will have suitable focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point should be treated with reverence. It should be liturgically correct and follow the church's year (i.e. coloured drapes appropriate to season). At times the children will receive from other acts of worship prayers, thoughts or artefacts which they should place on the focal points for an appropriate period of time.

FOCAL POINTS SHOULD NEVER BECOME STALE AND
UNTIDY.

In planning Class or Key Stage acts of worship staff will use the Come and See topics, feast days, liturgical year or world events as a basis.

Staff will also seek to involve the children as much as is possible in the worship so they are truly interactive including planning of worship.



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Planning for collective worship

When planning for collective worship the pro forma provided by the Archdiocese should be used (please see appendix for blank copies) which also provides the

CLASS:	LEADER:	DATE:
<p>GATHER</p> <p>How will the children enter the space?</p>	<p>How will we begin / enter - to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Use a 'gathering chant' Come in procession.</p>	
<p>LISTEN</p> <p>Story/information</p>	<p>Reading from scriptures, psalms, poems etc. Use power point. Pause at times for quiet contemplation. Dramatise the readings.</p>	
<p>RESPOND</p> <p>From the child</p>	<p>What the pupils will do. Quiet reflection, formal / informal prayer / respond to bidding prayers. Place stone at foot of cross etc.</p>	
<p>GO FORTH</p> <p>What is the message they will take with them & how do they leave the space</p>	<p>What will I do to help the children take the message away with them - prayer card, picture, common prayer</p>	

structure that should be used when carrying out your collective worship session. Each teacher will keep a copy of the planned collective worship in their R.E evidence file.



At St Anne's Catholic Primary School Collective Worship generally follows the pattern outlined below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
EYFS/KSI	Class worship	Class worship	Department worship	Class worship	Whole School
KS2	Class worship	Department worship	Class worship	Class worship	Whole school

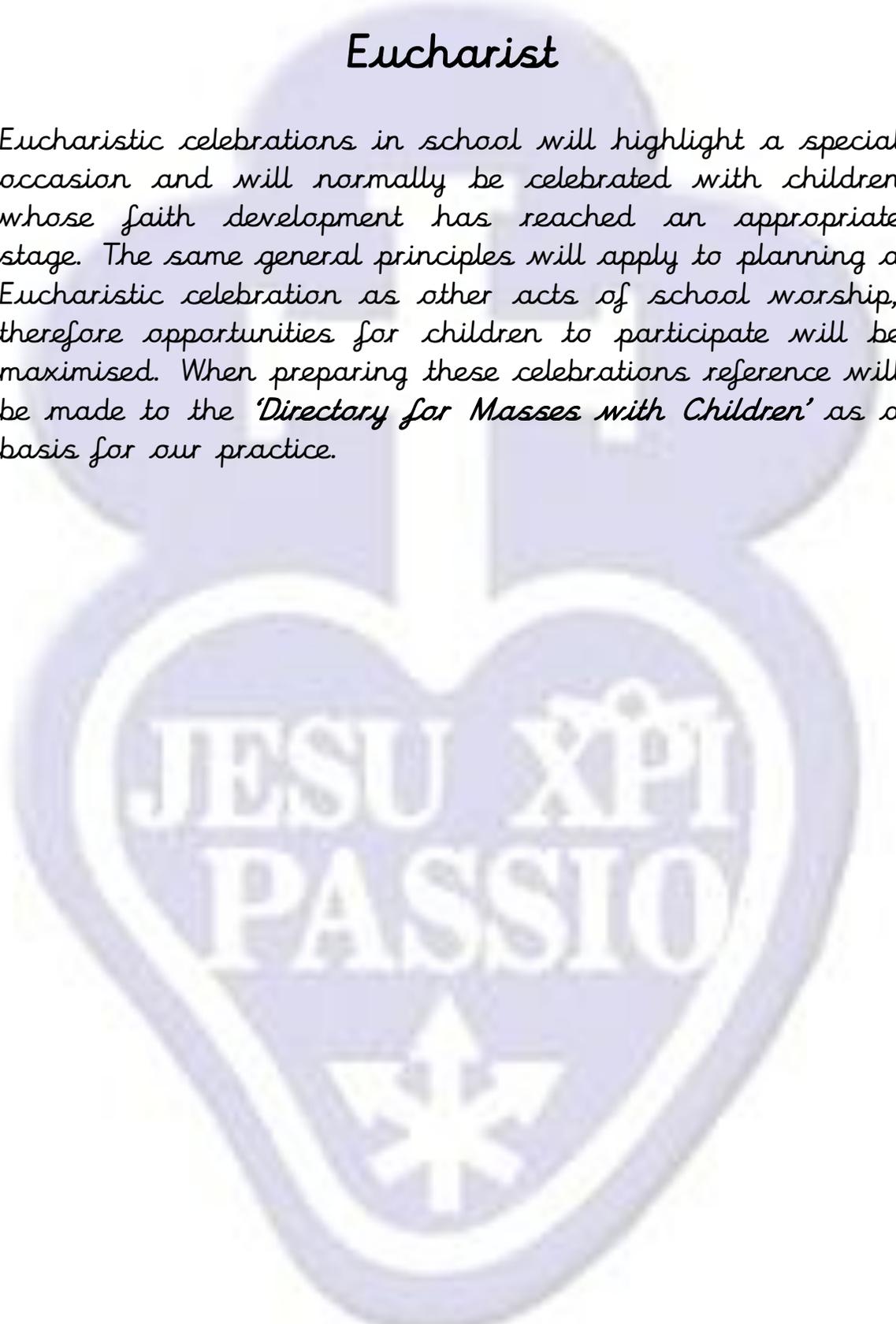
Resources

There are resources to support the planning and delivery of collective worship in the central R.E resource area in the Staff room. Staff will also be given a current copy of 'Spirit of the season', which is a valuable starting point when planning collective worship.

Reference should also be made to the resources provided by Cafod on their website, which help to incorporate the global community into our worship.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice.



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The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship.
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children.'
- Organising themes for Worship.
- Assisting the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship.
- Informing the head teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship.

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship.
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development.
- Acting as consultant to colleagues.
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship.

- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship.
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaison with the Archdiocese.

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship.
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back.
- Keeping up to date by personal reading.

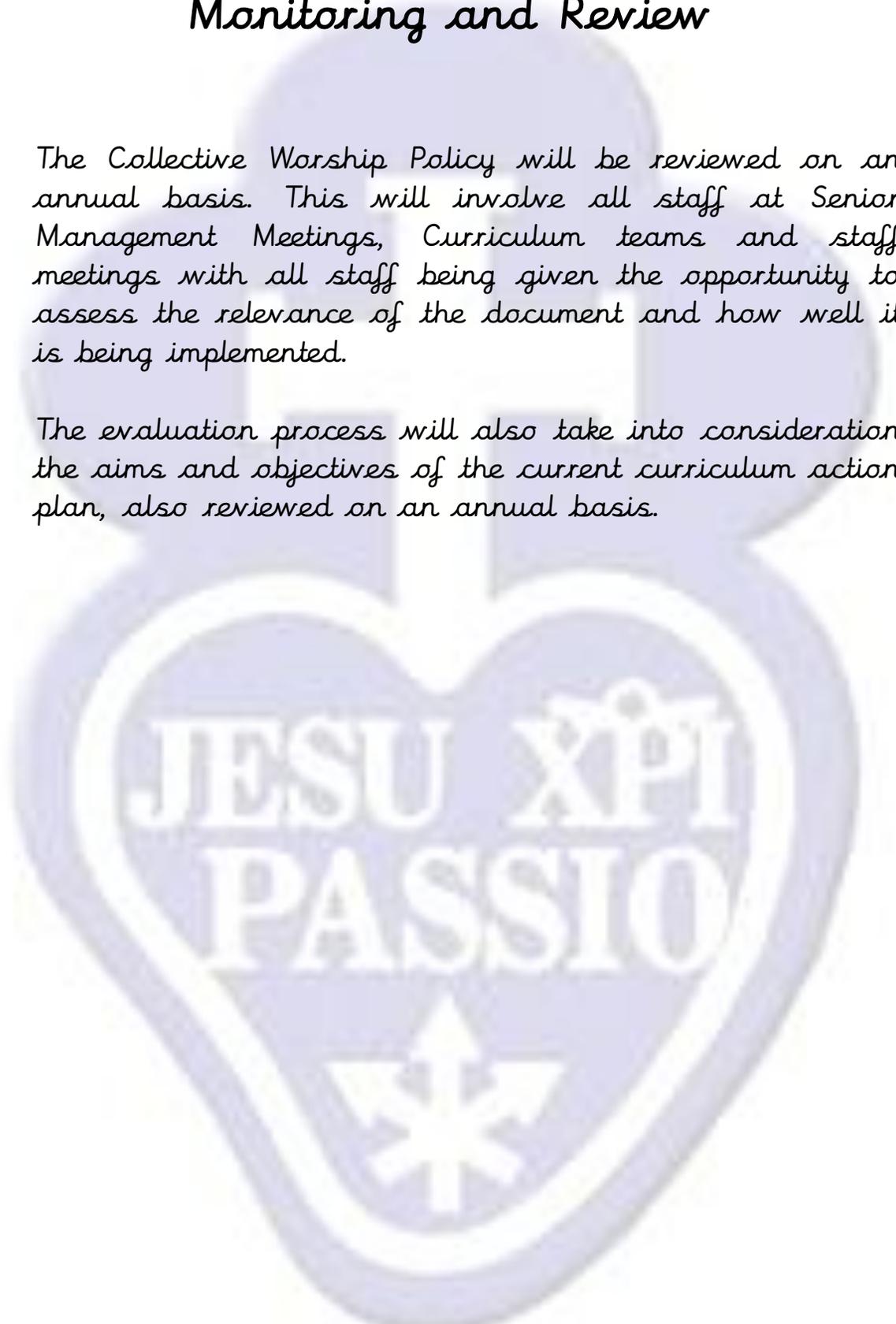
Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Monitoring and Review

The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. This will involve all staff at Senior Management Meetings, Curriculum teams and staff meetings with all staff being given the opportunity to assess the relevance of the document and how well it is being implemented.

The evaluation process will also take into consideration the aims and objectives of the current curriculum action plan, also reviewed on an annual basis.



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