

# St Benedict's Catholic College



## Collective worship policy

<b>Date reviewed</b>	December 2024
<b>Approved by governors</b>	December 2024
<b>Date of next review</b>	December 2027



## THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

St Benedict's Catholic College is a Christian community, which lives by the tenets of the gospels. This is the ethos which permeates our college. The motto 'Ora et Labora', or 'Prayer and Work', is central to all that we do as a college. It encapsulates the standards to which we aspire with the help of the Holy Spirit and is enshrined in our mission statement.

We are an inclusive community with Christ at the Centre.  
We nurture spiritual, emotional and academic growth.  
We develop our gifts and talents through prayer, work and respect.  
It's what we do and believe.

### Holy Mass

As a Catholic school we are a *Eucharistic community*. Mass is offered in the chapel with RE classes on a rota basis; each student will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass with their RE class at least once a year.

Each year group will also be provided with the opportunity to celebrate Mass with their peer group and members of their families at a family Mass. These Masses take place at the college with the support of the priests of the deanery and other clergy.

Mass is celebrated for the whole college on holy days of obligation, at the start of each term and on St Benedict's feast day.

Year 11 students attend a thanksgiving Mass in the summer term along with their families, staff members, governors and invited guests e.g. Headteachers from our partner Catholic Primary Schools.

Mass is also celebrated every Wednesday at 8.15 am in the chapel. Everyone is welcome.

### Daily prayers

Daily prayer takes place as part of Collective Worship in form time.

### Assemblies

An assembly is held each week on a rolling programme, half the college at a time, consisting of spiritual reflections around Biblical themes, church teaching and the liturgical year.

A year assembly is held each day and all students and form tutors are expected to attend these assemblies:

Monday	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 10
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 8
Friday	Year 7



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**Retreats**

A programme of retreats is offered to all students throughout the year. Each year 7 form is provided with the opportunity to spend a day in retreat with their form tutor as part of their induction and ongoing spiritual development. Other opportunities are offered through the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service as well as national and international events such as 'World Youth Day'. Many of the young people in years 10 and 11 also attend the diocesan summer Lourdes trip as helpers for disabled members of the Catholic community. Staff can also be provided with the opportunity of taking a retreat on one weekend a year.

**Works of charity**

As a Christian community we take very seriously our commitment to the poor and oppressed and regard works of charity as an essential part of the students' education. This is manifested in the excellent relations we have had with CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), Colchester Foodbank and other charities.

**Chaplaincy**

The college employs a chaplain who co-ordinates many of the events described above. The chaplain also works very closely with the pastoral teams in the college so that prayer is a very vibrant aspect in the development of the young people who attend the college. Chaplaincy representatives from each form group work closely with the chaplain in the preparation of religious services, assemblies and Mass as well as encouraging greater involvement in the events outlined earlier.

**Legal requirements**

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 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 named.

**Principles**

All acts of worship at St Benedict's Catholic College will:

- give glory and honour to God
- be fundamental to the life of our college and its Catholic character
- build our college into a community founded on Jesus' life and teachings as expressed through the saints and other inspirational people
- be kept appropriate to the age and stage of students' development to help to personalise the experience
- be reflective, engaging and clear, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Review date: Autumn 2027