



*Inspired by joy we grow together as a unique family
who respect, love and forgive each other.*

Prayer and Worship Policy

"The Catholic school sets out to help and encourage its pupils to come to experience something of the mystery of God and respond in freedom to God's invitation into a loving relationship.

Opportunities for prayer and worship are integral to its life and purpose"

Handbook for the Inspection of Religious Education in Catholic Schools.

Diocese of Salford 1994.

In support of the school's mission statement, Safeguarding policy and our SEN policy, this prayer and worship policy has been developed.

At St Joseph's the staff is committed to their vocation as teachers, to pass on the teachings of Our Lord to the children in our care. We realise that the families in our school are at different points in their faith journey and their needs vary greatly. We hope to lead the children and their families to a rich and full life in Jesus by our example and guidance. The staff worship and reflect together regularly throughout the year. We work with partnership with the parish, parents and children to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

At St Joseph's we hold prayer at the centre of each day. The children are introduced to formal prayers in the Nursery and this is carried on throughout the school. We use *Lectio Divina* (lectio, mediation, oratio, contemplation and actio) supported by Pray Together in Key Stage 1 and 2 as a basis for this daily worship. We understand that formal prayers are not the only way to talk to God. Children are encouraged through class prayer and worship times to speak to God in their own hearts and minds by using their own form of prayer and by sitting still and having time to meditate. Each week begins with a Gospel centred assembly linked with the liturgical year. Each class has an allocated time to visit the chapel in the school each week.

The children are given the opportunities to pray at various times of the day for different purposes. At all times the children are encouraged to develop a positive self-image. Whole school masses are held at different times of the year and on Holy days. Masses for Advent, Lent and Pentecost are held in St Joseph's Church.

Children take it in turn to prepare the readings and the offertory procession. Key Stage One and Key Stage Two come together to pray as a whole key stage group and sing in praise of God. Every week different parents are invited to attend ACE Assembly where the successes of their child are celebrated.

During the course of Key Stage 2 it is expected that the children take more of a leading role in these acts of worship. At least once a month the children will have special times when they reflect on what they have learnt about in their RE lessons and give thanks to God for the blessings that they have received. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer in the form of a prayer table which the children are free to use. Classes follow a rota to prepare and present assemblies during the year. A record of these assemblies and other acts of collective worship is kept to aid future planning. Parents are invited to attend all class assemblies.

Agreed with staff and governors

Summer Term 2019

Review date Summer term 2020