

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Mission Statement

At St Joseph's we welcome all as members of our school family. We learn and care for each other as brothers and sisters; enriched by the teachings of Jesus.

We encourage Creativity; valuing our unique talents and skills as gifts from God.

Working alongside pupils and parents/carers, we can all succeed and realise great things.

Serving the communities within the Parish of St Joseph's and St Francis and beyond, we reach out to all.

We respect each other, our different cultures and faiths celebrating our richness and diversity.

Through worship and prayer we show our love; striving to achieve our very best.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.¹ This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

¹ 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 structured. *Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person, irrespective of what their relationship is).

What is Collective Worship?

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's loving presence in our lives. Worship is giving time, thought, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's divine life and love revealed in person of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Collective Worship is a time when children gather together, either in a class setting or as a whole school, to read and listen to scripture, to pray and participate in the liturgy and devotions of the Catholic Church.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School:

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

Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- 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 Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues and Gospel Values
- 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.'
- To contribute to a better understanding of other faiths of children both within and outside the school

Principles

All Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Be quiet, calm and respectful and give glory to God.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- Develop pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

Organisation of Collective Worship:

Monday - Whole School Collective Worship - led by the Head teacher

Tuesday - Key Stage assemblies alternate weeks in the school hall. The Key Stage that does not attend collective worship together in the hall will hold a Collective Worship session as a class.

Wednesday - Hymn Practice to take place in the Hall - Whole School

Thursday - Collective Worship based on the Wednesday Word, provided by the Parish - related to upcoming Sunday liturgy.

Friday - Celebration Assembly - Whole School - led by a member of the SLT, usually the Head teacher.

Daily -1pm - Christian Meditation in each class

There will be at least one whole school Mass led by the Parish Priest at least once a term. Throughout the year the school will lead or support Masses in our local Parish. Visits to the church will be arranged for all classes in the school. Key Stage 2 children will attend Mass at the church once a term, by arrangement. There will be a yearly Leavers' Mass for children and their parents in Year 6. Parents will be invited to Masses as often as possible and made welcome at all times.

The format for Collective Worship for our school is:

- ❖ **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet gathering PowerPoint presentation, reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.);
- ❖ **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible or Lectionary;

- ❖ **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers);
- ❖ **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

At Key Stage 1 Worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies and prayer times.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word.
- The occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- A range of types of prayer.
- A range of styles of celebration.
- Opportunities for pupils to take an active part in, and lead, worship.

At Key Stage 2 Worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies and prayers times.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharist Prayer and/or the Communion Rite.
- The occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies.
- A range of types of prayer.
- A range of styles of devotions, reflections or collective forms of worship.
- Opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship.
- Opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship.
- Opportunities to devise and present Collective Worship to others.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation by Classteachers

A Key Stage Collective Worship rota is set up on a termly basis by the RE Co-ordinator and teachers are responsible for developing their own Collective Worship for their dates.

Resources are saved and shared on the school system for other members of staff to use.

Evidence of Collective Worship can be monitored through display, prayers, reflections and photographs.

Some evidence of Collective Worship will be recorded in class RE Learning Journeys.

The Role of the Co-ordinator in Collective Worship:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship

- Ensuring that Collective worship is part of the RE Action 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.
- Organising a rota and themes for Worship
- Providing resources and advice for teachers and children to help with organising Collective 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 the 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
- Liaising with the Parish Priest
- Liaising with the diocese and other RE Co-ordinators in the diocese.

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

Policy monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed yearly.