



Headteacher: Mr D Redfern
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Pontefract, A Voluntary Academy
Newgate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 4AA

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Collective Worship Policy

Last review: 23.03.17
Next review: Spring 2 2018

Our Mission

Here, under the guidance of our patriarch, St Joseph, and inspired by centuries of Catholic teaching, we begin to learn how to serve each other and our world with the same faithful joy which we see in Jesus, our saviour and our Lord.

To Him be glory and praise for ever

At St Joseph's we value each individual child and adult in our community. This policy is inclusive of everyone, regardless of gender, race, creed, disability or any other factor that makes the person unique.

Relationships and Sex Education runs through all Collective Worship. The school ensures that, where possible, the 'RSE' content in this policy complements it and supports Catholic teaching on the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children.





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The Nature of Collective Worship

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We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.¹

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act or worship for all pupils.² (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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. '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 and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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This Academy is a member of

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

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- 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.

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

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.

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
- 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.'

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
-





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Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.³ In order to do this celebrations will:

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- 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. 5 – 6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7 – 10 minutes for Key Stage 2);
- Be simple, including arrange of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

³Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Appendix 1

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 headteacher 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 headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
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Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development

Acting as consultant to colleagues

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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 school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing information 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

(Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the co-ordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the co-ordinator to lead this group.)

Appendix 2

Diocesan Statement on Collective Worship

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





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The purpose of these experiences is:

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- To give honour and praise to God
- To develop the school as a community of faith
- To assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- To witness to the community and the wider world

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Recorded
- Monitored
- Evaluated

In order to ensure that the collective worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

The Organisation of Collective worship in school.

All the school takes part in a daily act of worship. How it is organised is as follows:

Foundation Stage

The children take part in collective worship as a whole school at times and in class lasting approximately five minutes.

Key Stage One

There is whole school worship on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. Other occasions will be class based.

Key Stage Two

There is whole school collective worship on a Monday, Thursday and a Friday and class worship takes place on a Tuesday and Wednesday, this is either teacher or pupil led.





There are regular Masses on a Friday morning for key stage 2 and termly, at least for the whole school.

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The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Using the 'Ethos Statements.'
- Using the 'Wednesday Word'.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a whole school planner for the Ethos statements and a planner for Eucharistic celebrations and rituals of the Church to keep note of themes, leaders, pupils groupings and resources
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- Pupil Monitoring of Acts of worship. (evaluation book)

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Resources are located within classrooms (worship baskets) in the head teacher's office, with the RE coordinator and in key areas around school.
(books, CD's, posters. Artefacts etc)



Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Parishioners and parents are invited to all Masses and whole school worship in the hall. Until the closure, Myddelton Grange was visited by Year 5 each year.

Children are invited to volunteer to lead worship in school for their peers.

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Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion in Key Stage One and more regularly in Key Stage two.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word and sometimes the Eucharistic Prayer and/or the communion rite.

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the communion rite.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs. Everett is responsible for Collective Worship in the school.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation governors in particular will play a most important role.



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