



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

**St. Joseph's is a joyful community
which follows the example of Jesus,
helping, accepting and respecting everyone,
as we learn and grow together,
safe in His love.**

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in work 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.

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. However, worship at St Joseph's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all gain at a level of faith background appropriate to them.

Collective Worship at St Joseph's 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 backgrounds.
- 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;
- 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;
- 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.

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship;
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies;
- 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 to something prepared for them.

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy timetable to assist staff with planning, by informing them of dates and themes;
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and class liturgy planners where appropriate.

RESOURCES

- Resources supporting the planning of liturgies, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic.
- Bibles
- Prayer books
- Music
- Pictures and artefacts
- Candles and drapes

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it fulfils the aims of our policy in an updated and appropriate manner.

The Role of the Collective Worship Leader:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which forms 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 Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising professional development and 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

In addition:

- plan and present an overview of Liturgy for the year;
- plan the liturgy for whole school occasions;
- support colleagues in the implementation of the Collective Worship Policy;
- monitor progress and advise the Head Teacher on whatever action is needed;
- take responsibility for the purchase of central resources for liturgies;
- keep up to date with developments in liturgy and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.

PARISH & FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

On these occasions of collective worship the children, or groups of children, play an active role offering and sharing their celebration with the parish family or their own families. They include:

- Weekly attendance at Monday morning Mass (one year group each week)
- Beginning of Term Masses.
- Masses for Holy days.
- The Feast of St Joseph

WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

In these we try to develop the children's sense of belonging to a caring, sharing school family meeting to praise God together.

In addition assemblies may focus on another shared area of school or church life such as:

- Feast Days of the Church e.g. St Peter and Paul
- Welcoming new members to or school family.
- Saying goodbye to leavers.
- Advent and Lent Assembly
- Stations of the Cross.
- Devotions to our Lady
- The Rosary
- Cafod

Other School celebrations include:

- Grace before and after eating together.
- Special prayers at different times of the school year (eg. The Angelus during Advent).

HOW COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS ORGANISED:

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship within St Joseph's is as follows:

Monday: Hymn Practice (KS1 and KS2 separately)
Mass for one year group each week

Tuesday: Worship in class

Wednesday: KS1 Class Assembly* or Phase Assembly (am)
KS2 Class Assembly* or Phase Assembly (pm). A class prayer time will take place in the morning
*Each class has an annual planned celebration of learning in RE to which parents are invited.

Thursday: Worship in class

Friday: Whole school liturgical assembly, led by the Head Teacher. A class prayer time will take place in the morning

INDIVIDUAL CLASS CELEBRATIONS

The day begins and ends with prayer. This usually includes a morning and night prayer alongside the other forms appropriate to the occasion and the age of the children.

Pupils participate in class liturgies and are involved in the preparation of their class liturgies, the level of organisation depending on the age of the children and the theme of the liturgy. Each class has a Liturgy Leader who is part of the Chaplaincy Team.

POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

The policy is monitored by the RE and Collective Worship Leader. It will be reviewed in line with the school policy review cycle.

Appendix 1

Legal Requirements

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.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (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 or in St Joseph's Church. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere.

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

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 will 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.