

UPDATED	SEPTEMBER 2018
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ST. JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Aims

We will provide a quality education realising the individual potential of all our children spiritually, academically, morally, socially, physically and emotionally.

We recognise the unique contribution that every child can make to the WORLD and we aim to foster their role and responsibility within our diverse society.

We will continue to develop the essential partnerships between home, school, parish and the wider community.

The Nature of Collective Worship

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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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 spiritual development of each child and staff member is integral in this worship.

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.

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

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 and the beliefs of others
- 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-ref to appendix 3 for guidance
- 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;
- Develop in 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. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Collective Worship within St Joseph's School

This takes the form of

- Assemblies including collective worship and liturgy
- Whole School - Monday and Friday
- Key Stage liturgies;
 - KS1 - Wednesday
 - KS2 - Thursday
- Hymn Practice - Tuesday
- Individual class led whole school assemblies/collective worship
- Class Liturgy - Thursday (Foundation Stage and KS1) Wednesday (KS2) Approximately 15 mins-relating to topic or seasons of the Liturgical year
- Daily Prayer - Morning, Lunchtime and evening.
- Various whole school collective worship in relation to the Liturgical Year

Eucharist-Whole School Mass

Eucharistic celebrations, which are celebrated by the parish priest, take place in school every term and will usually highlight a special occasion. This is a whole school event and the readings etc are led by the Key Stage 2 classes and therefore opportunities for children to participate are maximised. There are additional Eucharistic celebrations for First Holy Communion children and Year 6 leavers. Parents and parish members are invited to every celebration.

Resources

There are a variety of resources stored on the computer. This includes:

- Music and Hymns (Saved in staff shared; Music for R.E and assembly)
- A bank of appropriate prayers
- Prayers and references for Seasons of the Liturgical year
- Ppt presentations inc stations of the cross for children,
- God's Story and Church's story Bks 1-3
- Variety of religious pictures

All classes are equipped and continually developing the Resources for their class altars and liturgy displays including:

- Liturgy Planner-ref to appendix 3
- Resource cards for planning liturgies
- Prayer stones/Crosses
- Resources for different Liturgical seasons including Advent and Lent
- Variety of pictures
- Prayer books, bibles etc
- Altar cloths for different Liturgical Seasons

There are also various whole school resources available - Located in the school hall and Prayer room.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by Mrs William, the Collective Worship Leader, Mrs Siddel, School Chaplain and Miss Haigh, RE Coordinator. and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

The Role of the Leader 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
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher 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 school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice 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

[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.]

Legal Requirements

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. 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.

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.



Appendix 3 Collective Worship Timetable



	9-9.20	9.20-10.30		Playtime	10.45 12.15		Dinner Time	1.15-2.15		2.15- 3.00	3.00 - 3.15	
Mon	Liturgy - Whole School							Collective worship - Foundation Stage 2 (In class)				
Tue			Hymn Practice			Collective worship - Foundation Stage 1 (In class)		Collective worship - Foundation Stage 2 (In class)			Collective worship - In class KS1 + KS2	
Wed	Liturgy - Foundation Stage + KS1 Teacher Led							Collective worship - Foundation Stage 2 (In class)			Collective worship - In class KS2	
Thur	Liturgy - KS2 Teacher Led					Collective worship - Foundation Stage 1 (In class)		Collective worship - Foundation Stage 2 (In class)			Collective worship - In class KS1	
Fri	Liturgy - Whole School							Collective worship - Foundation Stage 2 (In class)				