



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
*Following in Jesus' footsteps we live, love and learn*

## **Policy for Collective worship**

### Aims

Collective worship at St Joseph's aims:

- To Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- To consider Spiritual and Moral Issues
- To encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship through listening to and joining in with the worship offered
- To endorse and explore their own beliefs and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a community spirit
- To promote a common ethos and sense of shared values

This takes place in the whole school ethos of a Catholic School within a Catholic Parish and Community. The worship and celebration is to be developmental, moving all of us along our faith journey through our shared Gospel.

### Principles

The following principles guide our practice within our school:

- Collective worship is inclusive. It is an activity and experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Collective worship should be a quality experience fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- It should give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age and understanding.
- It provides opportunities to; celebrate, share, reflect, in a large social gathering which may include the wider community.
- Collective Worship give glory, honour, thanks and praise to God by using elements such as hymns, scripture, reflection, prayer, music and drama
- Collective worship should evoke the senses and feelings from which worship most naturally arises including a sense of beauty, awe and wonder. It should give children a feeling of pride, a sense of pity and a sense of peace.

## Organisation

The format for collective worship in our school will be:

- Gather - how we come together, the setting, (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, focus display)
- Listen - a piece of scripture to reflect the weekly theme/value (The word of God)
- Respond - The response to the Word of God may include a prayer, dance, music, hymn, art work, drama or poetry. The response will vary.
- Go forth - giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.
- We hold daily acts of collective worship in our classes each day. % - 7minutes for Keys Stage One. 7-10 minutes for Key Stage 2.
- Each week we hold a Key Stage Collective worship.
- The children are encouraged once a week to organise and deliver their own Collective worship. Year 5 and 6 pupils take full responsibility for this. Years 3 and 4 are supported by the class teacher.
- In Key Stage One the teacher and children plan the worship and the children are supported in their choices and guided by their teacher.
- Staff use the Stepping Stones guidance provided by the Archdiocese to ensure appropriate guidance is met.
- We may take the themes from come and See, the liturgical year, topical events such as world peace and festivals or values.
- The Friday Celebration Assembly reflects achievements of the children during the week in either behaviour or learning. Within this assembly time is given for reflection and thanksgiving from the previous week. The ethos and expectations of the school are emphasised during this assembly demonstrating that all children are valued and achievements are recognised.
- Parents, Governors and the wider community are invited to class assemblies which promote the community of the school.
- The hall and each classroom have a focus area for collective worship and a selection of resources from which the children choose to set up their own collective worship.

Collective worship in our Catholic School, while respecting the diversity of belief and commitment in other Christians and beyond to

other world religions, is Catholic in character, reflecting the tradition of our church which will have Christ at its heart.

Our School takes full and active part in the Liturgical life of our parish and we have regular school masses and celebrations appropriate to the liturgical Year of our church.

### Planning

- All staff have a weekly planner for collective worship.
- Plans and photographs of worship and focus displays are held in a central file in the staffroom.
- The Head teacher and subject leader carry out collective worship observations at various times during the year - set out in the subject leader's monitoring planner.
- Each year the school's provision of worship is evaluated to consider if it meets the needs of the pupils and if it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

### Resources

- Resources are held centrally in the staffroom
- Resources are updated and added to on a yearly basis
- There is a centrally held cupboard in the hall for pupils and staff to access.
- Every classroom has a board with planning sheets and resources for children's worship.

This policy is monitored by the RE subject leader and the head teacher. It is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and Governors each year. The policy is mindful of all the other Governor's policies and will contribute to a balanced curriculum, the Mission Statement and the Catholic ethos of our school.

The Governors fully recognise the contribution of parents and our parish community within a process of mutually responsible partnership.

Ratified by Governors September 2018

Reviewed by staff September 2018