



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Worship Policy

| | |
|--|---|
| Agreed by the Governing Body on | Summer 2019 |
| Review Date | Summer 2020 |
| Review Schedule | Biennial |
| Person(s) Responsible | Religious Education Leader and Provisions & Achievement Committee |

MISSION STATEMENT

We live, love and learn through Jesus.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship at St Joseph's Primary School, is crucial to the spiritual life of our school and to our pupils' moral and spiritual development. Collective worship is an important part of our school's distinctive Catholic ethos which is the 'heart' of our school and its practice. At St Joseph's, collective worship remains an essential part of the life of our school. Opportunities are given to build a loving relationship with God.

We build our school Catholic community during daily collective worship. We give praise, honour and thanks to God. St Joseph's children participate and engage through word and action. We also give glory and thanks through song and instrumental performance. Our children are given time and space to reflect and pray. Collective worship provides a shared language of values to build a supportive, cohesive community bound together through shared faith and love. The Gospel Values are at the core of our prayer and time is set aside during the school day for reflection. This provides everyone with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a close-knit community.

We endorse the belief that 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 is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

At St Joseph's Primary School, we acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all our pupils. Our collective worship is distinctive from school assemblies, however, at times they may form part of the same gathering. The difference between assemblies and collective worship will always be made clear.

We recognise that 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.

In St. Joseph's Primary School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

Aims of Collective Worship

Worship is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

- Through **WORK**, to develop our full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.
- Through **WORSHIP**, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.
- Through **WITNESS**, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace

Collective Worship at St Joseph's aims to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To explore their own beliefs and relationship with God
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'
- To give thanks to God, to listen to Him, to ask for and receive forgiveness, to place our own needs and the needs of others into His hands.

Good Practice

- A sacred space should be created through a focal point, music, lighting etc. to remind us of the presence of God
- Scripture, the word of God, is given prominence
- The process of Gathering, Listening, Responding and Mission is a general guide to structure
- Silence is used effectively to allow for thought, prayer and reflection
- There is effective use made of music
- It is a learning experience but the focus is on worship and not on teaching
- Children are skilled in preparing as well as leading acts of worship
- Gathering and leaving is conducted appropriately
- It is appropriately paced
- There is evidence of a variety of approaches: telling a story, describing a situation or event, using images, special objects, dance, drama, music etc.
- Opportunity is taken to use liturgical responses and actions
- It encourages thinking about the needs of others

Worship and Liturgy will take the form of:

- Prayers at the beginning and end of each day, and before meals.
- Longer quiet times of prayer and reflection
- Appropriate assemblies
- Liturgies and Masses
- Wednesday Word inspired by the Sunday Gospel
- Child-led collective worship

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

- We follow a structure which references the Church's seasons, **Come and See** programme, **TenTen** programme, **Cafod** liturgies and events, **Children's Missio**, significant dates and the curriculum.

- We respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- When preparing an act of worship, a focus is created and we consider which resources will be most supportive.
- We plan the following elements:
 - **Gather:** How will we create an atmosphere of prayer and begin?
 - **Word:** What will the scripture focus be and how will be present it?
 - **Response:** What will we do in response to listening to God's Word e.g. prayer and symbolic action.
 - **Mission:** What will I do to help the pupils take the message away with them?

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner/Arbor (shared school calendar) to keep note of themes, masses, leaders, pupil groupings and resources as and when they take place
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- RE Coordinator keeps a file of liturgical collective acts worship and masses
- Class Teachers keep folders showing planned collective worship including pupil groupings, themes and resources etc.
- Wednesday Word collective worship is also recorded by classes and on the school's shared calendar

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship is 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 stored in each class in a prayer box. There are also shared resources in the Assistant Headteacher/RE Coordinator's office.