

St. Joseph's RC Primary



Collective Worship Policy

2019-2020



St. Joseph's R.C.V.A primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement:-

Dear God.

*With all your help and guidance let us always show respect,
friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say.*

We will love each other as you have loved us.

Amen

Introduction

This policy is written in light of us being a Rights Respecting School and it also complies with Article 28 of the UNCRC 'Every child has the right to an education'.

And Article 14 'The right to think and believe what they choose and to practise their religion as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights'

St. Joseph's R.C.V.A School seeks to provide a broad Catholic education and to assist all pupils in their faith development. This is not confined to the religious lessons. It is an ideal fostered in our school community. We work to **live** out the Gospel values not merely teach them.

Collective worship in our school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving respect, 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 celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Joseph's RC Primary School

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. Collective Worship 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies 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 are 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St Joseph's RC Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To provide a time for children to experience worship and prayer in a variety of forms.
- To give children experience in a variety of ways in which they can express and celebrate their faith.
- To celebrate together school life, the work done, the experience pupils have and emphasise their importance in our community and the world as a whole.
- To give pupils space and time to enjoy sharing their faith and development whilst respecting other religions and beliefs too.
- To reflect upon/explore spiritual, moral and personal issues.
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience and develop their liturgical understanding.
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.

Principles

All acts of worship in St Joseph's RC Primary School will:

- Be respectful

- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- 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.²

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, Statements to live by, RRSA, CAFOD work, World/National and local news issues also using suggested themes from the subscription to Ten:Ten Resources, etc. Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations. A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Whole School Collective Worship

Mon 8.50-9.00	School Hall led by HT or Mrs Hanley
Tues 8.45-9.00am:	School Hall led by Mrs Wilson Parents/Carers and Staff are invited to attend. Mrs Wilson to plan class liturgies with children
Wed 8.50am- 9.00am:	Class based Morning Worship led by Class Teachers.
Thurs 9.15-9.50am:	School Masses – whole school/class – Dates shared with parents
Thurs 8.50-9.00	School Hall led by teachers on a rota basis
Fri 2.45-3.15pm:	School Hall led by Mrs Ashton/Mrs Hanley. Parents/Carers invited – dates issued beginning of every term.

Liturgies

Our School Chaplain, Mrs Wilson is in school every Tuesday morning and has proved to be a fabulous addition to our school. She leads Class Liturgies in each class over the course of these two mornings using the Statements to live by and links to RRSA. Suggested resources from the 'Statements to live by' CD Rom saved to school network. In addition to this staff use the liturgies provided by the Diocese on the website linked to the topic covered in lessons. Children also have the opportunity to plan their own group/class liturgies; these are to be recorded in their

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

class 'Collective Worship' books. The School Chaplain has a bank of resources that she incorporates.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in the Respond booklets from the Diocesan website, Come and See planning templates and through photographic evidence. The School Chaplain has set up a file with the planning the children have done with her. Each class also keeps a 'floor book' to show further evidence of Collective Worship sessions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored throughout the year and the monitoring sheet is shared at the end of the year.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform DSEF 48.

Resources

- Mrs Wilson – our School Chaplain has a wealth of resources.
- Wednesday Word
- Statements to Live By
- Diocesan website
- CAFOD

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Other opportunities

In addition to the above the children, including Nursery, will attend St. Joseph's Church each Monday to celebrate Mass with the parishioners.

We also celebrate whole school masses at the beginning and end of each term, which are a vital opportunity for our pupils to experience the whole community celebrating together. The children are responsible for leading school masses.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The children in Key Stage 2 who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation attend confessions at least once a term.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every year.

To be reviewed: September 2020