

Collective Worship Policy

Date approved:	October 2022 LAC
Date reviewed:	Advent 2022
Date for next review:	Advent 2025

Mission Statement:

At ST JOSEPH’S WE LOVE, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER!

LOVE	LEARN	GROW
Love of our faith	Learn about our faith and Jesus	Spiritually
Love of Learning	Achieve our potential	Academically
Love life/the world	Learn from our mistakes	Morally
Love ourselves	Learn who we are / who I am	Confidently
Love others	Learn from others	Socially

Philosophy:

Prayer, worship and liturgy are at the heart of St. Joseph’s School and are integral to the ethos, mission and distinctiveness of our Catholic school community.

Through collective worship we:

- Celebrate God's presence in our lives through giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God.
- Respond, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.
- Gather as a community to fulfil the message of Christ that where two or three are gathered in His name He is there in the midst of them.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. In this school responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. However 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 welcome and encourage all children to attend Mass, collective worship and assembly, so they are able to share in these whole school experiences with their peers. However, any parent can request their child to be excused from attending religious worship and parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship:

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:

At St. Joseph's prayer and 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.

Prayer and worship will be an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Organisation of Prayer and Worship

The worshipping nature of our school is celebrated through the Eucharist, Liturgies, assemblies, class prayer and staff prayer:

- Daily prayers, giving children a time to pause and reflect, are said in each class at the start/ end of the day and before lunch. A booklet is provided to support teachers in facilitating collect worship with their class.
- Focus areas are present in each classroom. Focal Points (an altar or display) provide a stimulus for prayer and reflection. Each focal point should have some religious symbols that reflect the season of the Liturgical Year or key significant events. There is an altar in the KS2 Hall which reflects Christian values or the liturgical calendar and provides a focal point for whole school gatherings.
- Each week children attend three assemblies: whole school assembly, led by the Headteacher, a phase assembly, led by SLT and teachers in each phase on a rota and a celebration assembly, led by SLT (to mark achievements). Assemblies focus on Scripture readings, Christian values and the liturgical year and include prayers, scripture and hymns.
- Hymn Practices take place weekly.
- Class Assemblies are prepared by the children for the rest of their key stage and parents each year. The chosen themes reflect the Religious Education Curriculum or the liturgical year.
- Masses are held at the beginning and end of term in school or church and on Holy Days, when they fall on a weekday in term time.
- Liturgies/ Prayer Services are celebrated to mark other key dates in the liturgical year, for example 'Harvest'. These consist of active and visual displays as well as hymns, prayers and Scripture.

- The Stations of the Cross are held during the Lent term. There are other liturgies such as an Easter Passion Play, Christmas Carol Service and a Nativity play.
- KS2 class groups attend a parish Mass during the year.
- There is a retreat programme for KS2. All classes have a one day retreat during the year which provides the opportunity for time away from school to reflect on developing their relationships with each other, the wider and global community and their relationship with God.
- Prayer Bags / Bible Sacks provide the opportunity for children to link school and home prayer life and share their home prayer life with their peers.
- Staff begin every week by praying together on a Monday morning. All meetings in school begin with prayers.

Parental Involvement:

Parents are invited to class Liturgy's, prayer services and Masses on a rota basis. We believe that this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a demonstration of home and school working together to support the children's faith development.

All Reception parents are invited to a Welcome Liturgy in the Autumn Term, the end of KS1 is marked with a Transition Liturgy and Year 6 parents are invited to a Mass to celebrate their child's time at St. Joseph's before they leave.

Chaplaincy

The aim of the chaplaincy is to give excellent Christian witness and example, and to provide pastoral care for pupils, staff and parents. Father John, alongside the Deputy Head and the RE Coordinator fulfills this role (supported by key staff and Faith Ambassadors) make up the chaplaincy team. The school has close links with the parish church of St. Joseph's and is supported by the parish including the members of the clergy, key groups such as the SVP as well as individual members of the parish.

On a practical level this includes the regular celebration of the Eucharist both in school and in the church, non-sacramental liturgies, retreat days for the children and staff, prayer group, Christmas and Easter celebrations and visiting the church to support the R.E. curriculum.

Organisation, Monitoring, Training and Review

The Deputy Head is responsible for the organisation of Collective Worship throughout the school.

This policy is monitored by the Deputy Head and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years.