



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy





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Mission Statement

Our mission at St Joseph's ...

is to provide a place where our Catholic faith is lived and treasured.

Sharing God's love and faith throughout our school community.

Together we create a positive learning environment as we go through our journey with God.

Jesus teaches us to love each other.

Our achievements are celebrated together.

Striving to reach our full potential with help from the Holy Spirit.

Everyone should feel safe and be welcomed in our school.

Praying and playing together.

Home, school and parish working together to help and support us.

Showing self- discipline and respect for others.



The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective 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 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

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

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

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.



¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

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

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- 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 Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Statements to Live by', 'Come and See', feast days, and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Youth Friday, Holocaust Memorial Day, ... 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.

Before all staff meetings/ training days, there will opportunities provided for staff reflection and prayer.

All staff attend whole school Collective Worship on a Monday morning.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Timetable for Collective Worship:

Collective Worship Timetable St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



	9:00 – 9:15	9:15-10:30	10:30-10:45	10:45 -12.00	12:00-12:45	12.50- 1.00	1.00-2.15	2.15-2.25	2.25-2.55	3.00-3.15
Mon	Whole school CW (Hall) <i>Wednesday Word and Statements to live by.</i>		Break time – Prayer Room Available	Prayer before lunch	Lunch time – Prayer Room Available	Thanksgiving Meditation				Evening Payer
Tue	KS2 CW (in Hall) Led by DHT <i>Wednesday Word and Statements to live by.</i> KS1 CW In class led by teacher			Prayer before lunch		Thanksgiving Meditation		Collective worship Planning In classes	Evening Payer	
Wed	KS 1 CW (in Hall) Led by HT			Prayer before lunch		Thanksgiving Meditation			KS 2 CW (Led by children in class) Statements to live by	
	KS2 Morning Payer									
Thur	Morning Prayer			Prayer before lunch		Thanksgiving Meditation			KS1 & KS2 Class CW Led by children. Statements to live by.	
Fri	Whole School Achievement Assembly		Prayer before lunch	Thanksgiving Meditation			KS1 & KS2 Class CW Led by teacher			

During Lent Mrs Cooke will take children to church to carry out the Stations of the Cross.

Examples of prayers used in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School can be seen in *Appendix 1*.

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Executive Head teacher will plan and lead whole school and Key Stage collective worship as will the Deputy Head teacher. The class teacher will lead class collective worship.

Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Class Collective Worship is recorded by children on a Class Liturgy Planner (*see below*). These sheets are used by the children to deliver CW and then stored in the teacher's Collective Worship file. Each teacher ensures that one copy of the CW plan is given to the RE co-ordinator each term. Teachers/pupils also record their CW sessions in the following ways:

- PowerPoints
- Photographs
- Videos.

Class Liturgy Planner - planning sheet:

Date:	Class/ Family Group: Names of the children who have planned and led the session:
Gather:	
Word:	
Response to the Word – Prayer/ Symbolic action:	
Mission:	
What the children thought ... 	

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored by the RE Subject leader using the Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 2). Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has a supply of different coloured silks, candles, Bibles and resources such as crosses and pebbles which are used for collective worship which are available to be used by teachers and pupils.

Each class has its own Liturgical box of resources which is kept in the classroom.

Music for Collective worship is available on school iPods.

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.

Retreats

Year 6 children attend an annual retreat at the Emmaus Youth village in the Autumn or Spring term depending on availability.

Staff and children attend the retreat (which is an overnight stay) with Y6 staff and children from Our Lady Star of the Sea (Horden), Our Lady of Lourdes (Shotton) and St Joseph's (Blackhall).

Other opportunities

The whole school regularly attend Mass in the church of St. Joseph's (Murton) which is located across the road from the school.

Monthly Masses take place – some of these coincide with Holy Days of Obligation whilst others reflect school based themes.



³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Holy Days of Obligation which are attended by children and staff are:

- Ash Wednesday
- St Peter's and St Paul's Day
- Ascension Thursday
- All Saints Day
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- The Epiphany

Examples of themes for Holy Mass:

- Lent/Easter
- Remembrance Day
- Forgiveness
- Love/Friendship
- Advent
- 'Moving on' - 'Leavers Mass'

Staff, children and parents also attend the following in church:

- First Confession/ Reconciliation Service
- First Holy Communion

The school choir lead the singing in church on Easter Sunday and on Christmas Eve.

The Year 3 children perform a Nativity Tableau during the Christmas Eve Mass.

The school uses the church for Christmas performances and Carol Services - these are attended by parents and parishioners.

During Lent each class plans, prepares and delivers a special Lent liturgy. The assemblies focus on events and stories linked to:

- Palm Sunday
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday

Children deliver the liturgies through a variety of forms; song , Word, prayer, reflection and dance.

Lent also provides children with a time of reflection and to support this, the school provides opportunities for children to visit church and carry out the Stations of the Cross.

Promoting and encouraging children’s attendance at Mass on Sunday:

Children are encouraged each week (during the whole school assembly) to attend Mass at St. Joseph’s Parish Church (11 am Sunday).

Children making their First Holy Communion are encouraged to attend Mass at the weekend and this is supported by the First Holy Communion Programme which sets out the catechist and church sessions which children must attend.

The Carol Service promotes Mass times and opportunities to attend Mass during the Christmas period.



The coordinator for Collective Worship

The RE subject Leader also acts as the co-ordinator for Collective Worship and a job description is attached at *Appendix 3*.

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 two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

This policy was reviewed in January 2018.

Name: Date:

Name: Date:

Governor with RE/CW special interest

To be reviewed in January 2020.





The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content 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 Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and on-going formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- 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 coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]

Examples of Prayers



Morning Offering

Father in heaven, you love me,
you are with me night and day.

I want to love you always
in all I do and say.

I will try to please you, Father,
bless me through the day.

Amen

Oh my God I give to you,
All that I think and say and do.

All my work and all my play,
I will give to you today.

Amen.

Lunch

Grace before meals

Thank you for the world so
sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that
sing.

Thank you God for everything.

Amen.

Bless us O God as we sit
together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the
food.
Bless us O Lord.

Amen.

Grace after meals

(KS2 children)

Loving Father, we praise you for all the gifts you give us:
For life and health, For faith and love,
And for this meal we have shared together.
Father, we thank you Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Grace after meals

(KS1 children)

Thank you Father, for your gifts: help us to love you more.
Amen.



Evening Prayers

God our Father I come to say
Thank you for your love today.

Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me.

Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light

Amen

Traditional Prayers children say:

Our Father

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.

Amen



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Focus	Comments
<p>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children been involved in the planning? • Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 	
<p>Structure (If Liturgy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? • How did children gather? • Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? • How did children respond to the Word? • Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 	
<p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or adult led? • Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 	
<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? • Was it a prayerful experience? 	
<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How creative was the Act of Worship? • Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 	
<p>Prayer Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
<p>ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
<p>Agreed areas for development</p>	

