



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Revision	Date	Author	Reviewed by	Summary of Amendments	Approved (Date of GB Meeting)	Next Review	Responsible Committee
1	20/2/23	G Bath		Review of original 2021 policy. Amendments to reflect changes to timetables and worship timetabling & provision			F&E
2	03/03/23	G Bath	F&E	Agreed changes to wording.	30/03/23	January 2024	C&SI and F&E

# Collective Worship Policy

## Vision



**Together we love - Together we hope - Together we learn**

## Mission

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive, vibrant, Catholic community where we enable and encourage everyone to share and nurture a love of learning and the love of Christ.

Together, we hope to inspire ourselves and each other to be the best we can and to embrace our future with confidence.

## Introduction

Collective worship in our school aims to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective worship should strengthen this Catholic Christian community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective worship is this community's response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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). We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or

everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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 considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes). Please see RE Policy for statement of curriculum time for RE.

### **Definitions**

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

Liturgy - literally means 'work of the people'. It points to a collective dimension beyond the participants' individual prayer. Liturgy involves the use of collective prayers, and is built on symbols and actions.

Prayer - One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God." Beyond personal prayer we aim to include communal prayer, spontaneous prayer in class, prayers of praise and thanksgiving and prayers of intercession.

Mass – also called Eucharist. It is the liturgical celebration of Jesus' last supper, rooted in the mystery of his death and resurrection. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life (Vatican II)

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

We believe that collective worship must take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:-

- Those who practise their faith as members of the Catholic 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 and experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Worship in our school is an integral part of school life and grounded in the Catholic tradition.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

We believe that collective worship in our school community provides a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:-

- To contemplate the mystery of God;
- To unite our community in worship;
- To develop the necessary skills of:
  - Reverence
  - Contemplation

- Reflection and meditation
- Interpretation and imagination
- Empathy

All of which should enable each of us to deepen our relationship with God.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:-

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

## **Implementation**

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a fruitful experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point;
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

## **Timetabling**

A typical week would include:-

Monday 8.30am-9.00am – Whole School Liturgical Worship – Following the readings of Sunday. Also regular visits from a local Open the Book team (an ecumenical group from Portishead who act out stories of the Bible and involve the children in the drama and prayer).

Tuesday – 8.30am-9.00am – Class Worship (time may vary depending on other timetabling demands).

Wednesday – 8.30am-9.00am – Themed Worship by liturgical year/national events/PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education)/CST (Catholic Social Teaching).

Thursday – 8.30am-9.00am – Singing and Worship – New songs and musical praise.

Friday – 8.30am-9.00am – Whole School Celebration & Worship.

## **Planning for Worship**

The school uses Ten:Ten to ensure that assemblies throughout the week follow a theme including a whole school approach to Scripture, prayer and message. Ten:Ten follows the liturgical year and the readings from Mass on Sunday. Key Stage Assemblies are focused on other relevant topics including religious feasts from world faiths, national days and PSHE planning. However, staff should use the weekly prayer resources from Ten:Ten for continuity. We also use the Ten:Ten RSE programme, "Life to the Full".

## **Structure of a Collective Worship**

Collective worship in our school should follow the pattern detailed below:-

- Gathering - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc).
- Word - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme.
- Action - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with, that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc).
- Mission - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

### **Involvement of the Children**

All children in the school are encouraged to participate in whole school and class worship. Children are also given the opportunity to lead prayer and worship in class and for school events and worship. The chaplaincy team also leads the whole school daily worship and plans services and worship events.

### **Extra-curricular links**

Where appropriate, collective worship may be linked to the seasons of the Church year, feasts and memorials, school and external events, community and charitable links. In these cases the pattern detailed above should still form an integral part of the collective worship and opportunities for reflection should be included.

### **Celebration of Mass**

This is planned collaboratively with the Parish Priest, Head Teacher/RE Leader/Liturgy Leader/Class Teachers. All members of our school community are encouraged to engage in our celebration and are made to feel an integral part of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The celebration of the Holy Mass is central to the prayer life at St. Joseph's. It will include, where appropriate, the feast of our patron Saint, holy days and other feasts. We also celebrate mass at the beginning and end of the school year. The school leads a Sunday parish Mass once per term with staff and pupils supporting the readings, prayers and music.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

At St. Joseph's, it is the overall responsibility of Governors, in consultation with the Head Teacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

This Policy is monitored by the RE Lead, RE Link Governor and Parish Priest. It is evaluated and reviewed as part of our annual monitoring schedule.

The following will be monitored:-

- Time set aside for collective worship.
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy.

- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc.
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact.
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer.
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community.
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer.
- Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and governors with recommendations for future action.

Monitoring of the Worship in our school will be reported to the Faith & Ethos committee by the link governor.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Every child, regardless of faith, is encouraged to partake in Religious Education and activities without discrimination. We do recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Religious Education and collective worship in the school. Such concerns must be discussed with the Head Teacher on initial application to the school.

### **Policy Monitoring And Review (To Include Sub-Committee)**

This Policy will be reviewed each year by the C&SI and F&E Committees.

### **Authorisation**

Signed by (Chair of Governing Board)



Approved by Governing Body:

30/03/2023

**Next Review Date: January 2024**