



# Collective Worship Policy

St Joseph's is a **happy**, welcoming **community**, enriched by our **diversity**.

A place where we **love** one another, love **learning**, love **Jesus** and **love life**.

Date of Policy	Autumn Term 2024
Next Review	Autumn Term 2026

# The Nature of Collective Worship

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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.'<sup>1</sup>

## Legal Requirements

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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 RC Primary School

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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.

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

# The Aims of Collective Worship

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

- 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

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All acts of worship in St. Joseph's 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.<sup>2</sup> Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

## Planning, content and celebration

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

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.

Daily staff prayer takes place as part of morning briefing.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below:

Whole School Collective worship takes part on a Monday morning from 9.00-9.30am.

Key Stage Liturgies take place on a Friday morning for both Key Stages in the Hall from 9.00-9.30am.

Class liturgies are prepared by the children and take place in class at the end of every RE topic.

## Leading collective Worship

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead collective worship. In the absence of the Headteacher due to other commitments the Deputy Headteacher will lead Collective Worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

## Recording

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Collective Worship is recorded in Class files and teachers give a copy of their Liturgy and Powerpoint to the RE Co-ordinator.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

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Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1). Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

## Resources

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Resources such as God's Story and Church's Story are kept in each class. Each class has their own liturgy box. Each class has a selection of Bibles. Other resources are stored in the RE cupboard.

## The learning environment

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'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'<sup>3</sup>

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

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Year 4 have a residential retreat before First Holy Communion  
Year 6 attend the Youth Festival every year.

## Other Opportunities

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Children represent the school every year at Diocesan events e.g. The Good Shepherd.

## Eucharist

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There are at least two whole school Masses every term. Every class celebrates a Class Mass in church every term.

## The coordinator for Collective Worship

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The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher work collaboratively for leading and monitoring this throughout the school.

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

# Policy Monitoring and Review

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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.

## Appendix 1

### 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 inservice training and ongoing 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