



ST. JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL
'LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

At St Joseph's we share a vision that together we are the architects of the future, building lives on the firm foundations of the gospel.

Inspired by Christian values we aim to provide love and security within a curriculum designed to meet the complex needs of all individuals, in order to prepare them to take their place in the ever-changing world of today and tomorrow.

Introduction to Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St. Joseph's acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our school is shaped and sustained.

Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, must be intrinsically woven into the fabric of our school's Catholic identity. St. Joseph's has a schedule of liturgical events which will include planned for participation in Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies, and the opportunity for its members to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Legal requirements for Collective Worship

The law requires all maintained schools:

- provide daily Collective Worship for all pupils including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act);
- Acts of Collective Worship are not to be designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school this means that times of Collective Worship are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education;
- recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

In addition

- Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools;

Responsibility and oversight of Collective Worship

The governors and headteacher are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for whole school, class and year/phase group Worship;

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for organising Collective Worship across the school; and will ensure

- that Collective Worship, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily;
- that all pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day;
- that Collective Worship is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead;
- that there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Collective Worship which clearly demonstrates the impact on the school's Catholic mission;

Principles of Collective Worship:

Acts of Worship at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School should endeavour to:

- give praise and honour to God;
- give pupils meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church
- give pupils and students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- be of high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

The ultimate aim of Collective Worship at St. Joseph's is to provide the space and tools for our young people, within the context of the Catholic faith and traditions:

- to contemplate the mystery of God;
- to develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- to foster and nurture relationships;
- to respond to and to celebrate life;
- to experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- to nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;
- to enrich religious experience;
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- to seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Structure of Collective Worship

The structure of collective worship will consist of 4 parts, driven by key words:

- 1) Gather
- 2) Listen to the Word
- 3) Response
- 4) Going forth

Collective Worship is based on themes either reflecting the readings from the previous Sunday's mass, the liturgical year or an issue or event affecting the whole school community.

Whenever possible, collective worship, should:

- be inter-active, providing the children with the opportunity to share their prayers, answer questions and offer hypotheses.
- provide opportunities for children to rehearse the responses to the mass, whenever appropriate in either word/song.
- provide starting points that can be explored at an appropriate level back in the classroom.

	Nursery	Reception	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
MONDAY	Adult led in class	Head teacher led			
TUESDAY	Adult led in class	Class led in the Hall (for parents)			
WEDNESDAY	Adult led in class	Teacher led in the gallery		Teacher led in the Hall	
THURSDAY	Adult led in class	Worship with liturgical music			
FRIDAY	Adult led in class	Child led worship in class (Wednesday word)			

Masses:

Each year the Head/RE coordinators liaise with parish priest a timetable of liturgies and formal masses throughout the school year.

The Music coordinators also plan with RE coordinators so that pupils are involved with performing and singing.

Masses are prepared by the RE-Coordinator/ Faith Council in line with Liturgy of the day/ feast days. Pupils are given time prior to the liturgy to prepare hymns, Gloria, Alleluia, bidding prayers, offertory procession, and the readings, Children have access to printed mass booklets to learn responses.

Class Collective Worship

Each class is expected to prepare and present a class collective worship once a term, for the rest of the school and parents.

Dates for the collective worship are chosen at the beginning each term. Parents are given the dates as soon as they are available, to enable them to make arrangements to attend.

All class assemblies are acts of collective worship. They should all have a religious focus, reflecting either the appropriate “The Way, The Truth and The Life” topic or the Liturgical Year. The collective worship should begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Class collective worship should include a variety of forms of expression: dance, drama, choral speaking, poetry, prayers and songs/hymns.


All children should be given the opportunity to participate in the collective worship and should be given an equal chance to have either a big/small part at some time during the year.

Whenever possible encourage the children to learn their readings /part by heart and to speak out. Volume is important, as if the children cannot be heard the message of the collective worship is lost.

Music should be played for the children to enter and leave the hall. The music chosen should set the scene for the collective worship and should reinforce the expectations of behaviour. Always hand a copy of your collective worship plan to the R.E. Co-ordinator for their resource file.

The message of the collective worship should always be religious and celebrate R.E. across the curriculum. Prayer should be an integral part of the collective worship and not a bolt on.

St. Joseph’s School prayers:


ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL
LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN

Dear Lord,

**Help us in our mission to
nurture our faith through
living and teaching the Gospel values.**


**Guide us in our mission
as we are learning to love
and loving to learn.**


**Inspire us in our mission to
achieve and encourage everyone
to be the best they can be.**

**Support us in our mission to
become confident and responsible citizens
which aspire and inspire.**


*With your help we aim to become the architects of the future
And build our lives on the foundations of Jesus' teaching.*

Amen




ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL
LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN

St. Joseph's Morning Prayer
Good morning dear Father,
I give you this day.
In all that I think
And do and say.
I want to join in,
With all that was done,
By Jesus Christ,
Your dearest Son.
St. Joseph, take care of us,
Now and always,
Amen.





ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL
LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN

Grace before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made this food.
Bless us, O lord.
Amen


Saint Joseph, take care of us now and always.



Evening Prayer
God our Father, we've 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.

Saint Joseph, take care of us now and always.



Evening Prayer
At the end of the day let's kneel and pray
Thank you God for my work and play,
I'll try to be good,
I know that I should,
That's my prayer at the end of the day.
Amen.

Saint Joseph, take care of us now and
always.

POLICY REVIEW TERM: BIENNIAL

Policy reviewed: February 2024

Next review: February 2026