



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### Mission Statement

Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be.

#### The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian Worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in word and actions to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.



#### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and assemblies are distinct activities. They form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two will always be made clear. Collective worship may involve all members of the school, children from a Key Stage or a class coming together and participating in an act of worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the wider community.

At St Joseph's as with any voluntary aided school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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

We endorse the belief that 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

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

## **Aims and Purpose**

At St Joseph's School, all children will be introduced to the worship of God and the Liturgy of His Word on an increasing scale as the children progress through the school. We will build upon the children's previous experiences with the Catholic Spirit of the School Mission Statement:

"Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be"

The staff and Governors recognise that each child will have a different background with regard to the worship of God.

The aims and purpose of the Collective Worship at St Joseph's are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God in an atmosphere of joy, happiness and friendliness;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to develop the capacity to listen, to forgive and to ask forgiveness;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to express gratitude;
- to act together as a Christian community;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values such as respect for others, truth, forgiveness and justice;
- to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.



## Organisation of Collective Worship

The daily acts of collective worship will be for the whole school, a Key Stage or individual classes. Collective worship takes place daily in each class, and in addition all classes share The Angelus each day at 11.55am. Assemblies take place each week for each key stage.

Whole School Assemblies are led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Key Stage Leaders.

Assembly themes are taken from the traditions of the Catholic faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Collective worship is planned around central themes linked to events and feast days in the Church year and to world events or special days. Harvest, Christmas and Easter Assemblies are central whole school celebrations for our school family.

Collective worship is led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, and provides an opportunity for prayer and reflection linked to a relevant theme or to a festival and event in the Christian calendar. The second part of the assembly is a celebration of the achievements and learning of the children during the week. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to our Celebration assemblies and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

In addition throughout the year all classes lead an assembly linked to our The Way the Truth the Life topics. We invite parents and families to these assemblies which provide a lovely opportunity for the children to celebrate and share their work through collective worship.

We also regularly have Stay and Pray sessions where parents are invited to join their child's class to share in their collective worship.



## Principles of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be inclusive. It should:

- Be pupil centred, related to pupils own experience.
- Acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants and match the needs of pupils
- Foster a sense of community

Collective Worship should be educational. It should:

- Be a learning experience
- Be related to pupils own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Collective Worship should be spiritual. It should:

- Be time to be still and reflect, and be made special
- Make pupils feel calm, relaxed and secure
- Include a variety of words, music and images
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

Collective Worship should offer:

- A focus point
- Time for reflection
- Communal prayers
- Private prayer
- Scriptural reference
- Music/dance/mime/singing

Children should be encouraged to participate, plan and lead in all areas of preparation and delivery of the Worship.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated annually to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils. This will be carried out as a process for whole school improvement.

## Resources

A list of resources is available in the RE cupboard. Resources are either centrally located or are in class.

### The Role of the Religious Education Coordination Team

In relation to Collective Worship The RE Coordination Team are responsible for:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for worship
- Assisting the Governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.
- Monitoring Collective Worship through observation
- Ensuring standards are maintained and developments made in Collective Worship
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues
- Reporting to the Governing Body
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of the school policy of Collective Worship
- Liaising with the Christian Education Department regarding Collective Worship
- Leading and organising in-service
- Keeping personally up to date
- Evaluating resources
- Developing resources