

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Autumn 2017

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

'Faith in growing, growing in faith'

OVERVIEW

Collective worship takes place at St. Joseph's on a daily basis either at the start of the day or at the end of the day.

On a Monday the whole school assembly gives the opportunity for a whole school reflection on the gospel reading of the week or a particular bible reading or theme.

Hymn practices will also form the act of collective worship as the Mass theme and readings are explained and the pupils celebrate and praise in the form of hymn.

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full. Where parents request it, their children will be withdrawn from the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

OBJECTIVES

1. To recognise and acknowledge the presence of God in all that we do.
2. Each day all learners will have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection of high quality.
3. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
4. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
5. Collective worship will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
6. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
7. Worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
8. Worship will contribute to community cohesion and will promote learners' spiritual, social and moral education.

STRATEGIES

1. On some occasions the school will meet corporately to worship and, on other occasions in different groupings.
2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be lead by staff and learners.
3. Learners will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers of thanks after meals.
4. Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
5. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
6. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
7. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school.
8. Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
9. On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals, e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St George's Day.
10. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

Classroom based worship consists of a gathering prayer, an opportunity for reflection and a focus for the day.

Masses are decided in consultation with the Parish priest. Terms start and end with Whole School Masses and in-between can be class led as well as School/ Parish masses. These are planned by teachers, and where they are able, the pupils. Themes are taken from the Liturgical Year and in consultation with the Parish priest.

Timetables are given to class teachers and a copy is kept in the Staffroom and is updated if any changes occur.

Reconciliation services take place for KS2 in Lent and Advent.

OUTCOMES

Pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities. Through collective worship learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.