

St Joseph's RC Primary School



Collective Worship Policy



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Mission Statement

'I came so that you may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that distinctive Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God in a wide variety of forms. We seek to ensure that collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter to which all can contribute and from which all gain.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there should be a daily act of Worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can either be a single act of Worship for all children, or separate acts of worship in groups. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship if they so desire. The request must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in our School.

Worship is more than just a legal requirement. It forms an integral part of school life and 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 or only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the awesome mystery of God
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs

- To experience a sense of belonging and deepen community spirit
- To enrich religious experiences
- To ensure familiarity with prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To celebrate together the feasts of the Christian calendar
- To reinforce positive attitudes

Collective Worship at St Joseph's

- Daily class prayers at start, mid and end of day
- Weekly liturgical assembly led by senior leader
- Weekly hymn practice
- Weekly assembly, teacher led and based around the RE scheme of work
- Whole school Mass every half term
- Paired class led assembly half termly
- Rotational class Mass every week
- Chaplaincy Team to lead prayer in whole school celebrations
- Chaplaincy Team members to lead prayers with Early Years and KS1.

When we gather as a group we do so respectfully and reverently. The assembly hall is quiet, with hymns playing or piano/guitar led by staff.

Children, staff and parents are given an opportunity for quiet reflection in a calm atmosphere. A candle is lit and we are encouraged to find peace in this part of the day.

Recording and Informing

- We keep assembly files on the weekly assemblies
- We log any relevant material on our SMSC grid
- Parents are informed of celebration assemblies
- Parents are informed of Whole school Mass dates
- Classes record 'Big Questions' or prayers for loved ones in a variety of ways from prayer trees to Big Question books

Monitoring and Evaluation

Senior and subject leaders monitor class and whole school assemblies. This means of assessment provides feedback to encourage staff to reflect upon the delivery of prayer and worship. **Prayer and Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.** Discussions in staff meetings allow us to continue to move forward by sharing successes and developing new methods to assist and facilitate children in their spiritual and moral growth and development.

Revision	Date	Change
1	Spring 2018	Addition to - Collective Worship at St Joseph's
2	Spring 2018	Addition to - Monitoring and Evaluation