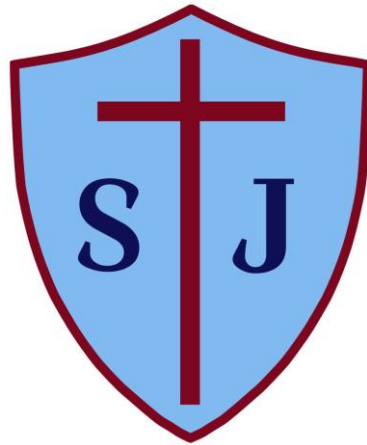


COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

A Model Policy for Primary Schools



St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Norton



Mission Statement

**St. Joseph's is a prayerful community grounded in the Catholic faith,
in which Gospel values shape our lives and work.
Our school is a loving, caring and happy place where all are welcomed and
everyone is valued and respected.
We recognise our uniqueness in Christ and celebrate diversity and difference.
Through hard work and high expectations, we nurture and challenge each other
to develop our gifts and talents.
We do our best even we find things difficult.**

The Nature of Collective Worship

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.'¹

Legal Requirements

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 School

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Collective worship considers 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.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St. Joseph's School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- 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

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

Planning, content and celebration

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.

Staff prayer occurs at the beginning or end of all staff meeting and briefings.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Monday – Class based Collective Worship.

Tuesday – Class based Collective Worship.

Wednesday – Whole school Collective Worship.

Thursday - Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 Collective Worship or mass.

Friday - Candle time – Class based Liturgy. (Parents invited)

Mass in St. Joseph's Church – Key Stage 2 every three weeks (Thursday). (Parents invited)

Mass in St. Joseph's Church – Key stage 1 every three weeks (Thursday). (Parents invited)

Class assemblies – Every class shares their learning with the school and parents once a year.

Easter Liturgies – (Parents invited)

Christmas liturgies – (Parents invited)

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Senior Leaders will plan and lead collective worship. Class teachers lead Collective Worship when it is their class saints feast. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Liturgy planning sheets are used by the teachers and children. (Age related)
Class Collective Worship is recorded in classroom Candle Time files.
Whole School Collective Worship is electronically stored.
House pastoral groups collective worship is recorded in house files.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 2).
Following monitoring, training needs are identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

All books and photocopy resources supporting RE, liturgies, collective worship, FHC, reflections, prayer, and world religions are situated in the meeting room in clearly labelled boxes.
Each teacher follows the 'Come and See' programme of study.
Come and See resources and assessment materials are provided for all teachers.
All teachers have access to the Come and See website which supports the full RE Curriculum and is full resourced.
The 'Wednesday Word' is distributed to every family in the school to support them in the celebration of Mass.
God Story pictures and resources can be found on all computers: START-RE –God Story Resources
RE Provide can also be located in the same folder on all computers: START-RE – RE Provide

The learning environment

'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'³
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

First Holy Communion children go on retreat to The Lady Chapel in Osmotherley, North Yorkshire.

Other opportunities;

House masses linked to their Saint Feast Day
Whole School Mass at the start and end of term
School chaplains - working towards PIN Award
Mini Vinnies
Rosary prayers on Monday lunchtime.

Eucharist

House masses linked to their Saint Feast Day.
Key Stage masses every 3 weeks.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Whole School Mass at the start and end of term.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Angela Birrell is the coordinator for Collective Worship. The job description is included in Appendix 1.)

Policy Monitoring and Review

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 in-service 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

Appendix 2

Monitoring Collective Worship

Focus

Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)

- Have the children been involved in the planning?
- Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?

Structure (If Liturgy)

- Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified?
- How did children gather?
- Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently?
- How did children respond to the Word?
- Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?

Leadership

- Child or adult led?
- Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?

Engagement

- Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically?
- Was it a prayerful experience?

Creativity

- How creative was the Act of Worship?
- Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?

Prayer Space

- Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?

Resources

- Were liturgical resources used appropriately e.g correct liturgical colours, artefacts?

ICT

- Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?

Agreed areas for development