



Love, Learn, Follow, Jesus

MISSION STATEMENT

*At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
Through an open and generous heart,
we learn together as a family in faith,
following the gospel values of love*

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body: September 2018

Next review: September 2020



INTRODUCTION:

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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. Our Collective Worship actively contributes towards our spiritual and moral development, as a Christian community.

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 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.

Inclusion

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we recognise our responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils. All aspects of the curriculum reflect the three principles essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum.

- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

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, 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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce 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 this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e., 5-6 mins. for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. for Key Stage 2*);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.



Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Organisation

Assembly

A weekly assembly is held for pupils on Monday and Friday. The Monday assembly is led by the Headteacher and sometimes by other experienced members of the staff. The themes of this worship are set out in the half termly plan set out by the RE Coordinator. These themes link with the liturgical year of the church and explore major Gospel and life themes, festivals, beliefs and charity events. The whole school worship will follow the same format as class worship: Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth.

The Friday Assembly, whilst being a rewards assembly also incorporates an act of worship. Once a term classes will be invited to help take a leading role in this assembly, following either a theme from their Come See Unit or celebrating a Holy Day. At the Start of each term, the RE coordinator will draw up a rota showing the dates that classes will take a lead in planning and delivering whole school worship.

Class Worship

On those days when pupils do not have an assembly the class teacher facilitates a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week or part of the Come and See unit of work. This act of worship takes place for approximately 5/10 minutes at a time appropriate for each class. The children take an active role in planning, preparing and leading their worship for their classmates, making full use of the Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth format as recommended by the Christian Education Department of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Guided by their teacher, the children plan:

- how they will gather for worship,
- which scripture will be listened to,
- how pupils in class will respond to what they have heard and
- how they will go forth with what they have learnt.

As well as praying at the start and end of the day, the children say a lunchtime prayer. In addition to this reflective and planned for class worships take place.

Resources



Each class has a Collective Worship Planning Board including-

- planning sheets
- Gather cards
- Response cards
- Scripture (Word)
- Going forth cards

Each class has a box of resources which the children can choose from when delivering their collective worship; these include CD's, candles, pictures, pebbles etc.

Masses

Once a term each class will host a Mass which parents and carers will be invited to. This will take place within school. This is planned for by the class teacher with pupil input.

The end of each term will be celebrated through a Mass at the parish church. Parents and carers are welcome.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *'Directory for Masses with Children'* as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs P Park is the Collective Worship Coordinator .

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.



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 which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family 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

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts 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 Christian Education Department

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back

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



Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests 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.



Resources for Collective Worship in Catholic Primary Schools

Books

A First Look- Prayer. Lois Rock. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) ISBN: 0745937519

Assemblies for liturgical seasons & school occasions, Volume One : Jude Groden and Christ O'Donnell :McCrimmon :0-85597-615-2

Celebrating the Mass. Bishop's Conference. Catholic Truth Society (2005) ISBN: 1860822908

Children's Daily Prayer:: Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Liturgy Training Publications : 1-57854-375-1 (Published annually for the beginning of the academic year).

Classroom Prayer Services for the Days of Advent and Lent : Gwen Costello :Twenty-third Publications : 0-89622-737-5

Enjoying the Mass. Joan Brown. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039736

Fifty Masses with Children : Francesca Kelly : Columba Press : 1-85607-043-3

God's Story 1,2,3: Rejoice Publications

Guided Meditations for Children 1,2 and 3 – How to teach Children to Pray using Scripture: Jane Reehorst, B.V.M.

In Joyful Hope – Advent Prayer and Worship in the Catholic Primary School : Carmel Hanley fcj and Rita Tunstall : available from Sr Carmel FCJ, 214 Barton Road, Stretford M32 8DP

Looking Beyond: Jill Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN 1840039841

Masses with Young People. Sr Jude Groden and Father Christopher O'Donnell. McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd (2006) ISBN 0855976802

New Ideas for Creative Prayer. Judith Merrell. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN 1859995896

Our Poems and no messin'. Margaret Cooling. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN: 1859995896

Poems and Prayers for a Better World : compiled by Su Box and Felicity Henderson : Lion : 0-7459-3886-8

Prayer of a Fragile World. Carol Watson. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) IBSN: 0745937055



Praying with Children – Some ways and means: Jenny Pate : McCrimmons :
0-85597-546-6

Seasons of Celebrations – Prayers, Plays and Projects for the Church Year : Patricia
Mathson : Ave Maria Press :0-87793-566-1

Spirit of the Season: a free to use/copy classroom resource : at www.liturgy.demon.co.uk

Spiritual Garments. Julie McCann. Decani Books (2006) ISBN: 1900314177

The Lord Be With You – Introducing the Mass to Children: Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-
85597-579-2

Volume Two – Assemblies for Feasts, Mary and the Saints: 0-85597617-9

Ways to Pray with Children (Prayers, Services and Activities): Barbara Ann Bretherton.
Twenty-Third Publications : 0-89622-670-0

Welcome: Celebrations for young children for the Church's year: Jenny Pate. McCrimmons:
085597642-X

Whispering in God's Ear. Alan Macdonald. Lion Hudson Plc (2004) ISBN: 0745936725

You're Special. Julia Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039841

Prayer and Worship Resources

Prayer Themes & Guided Meditations	B.A. Bretherton
With the Word of God	J. Groden & C. O'Donnell
Directory on Children's Masses	Congregation for Divine Worship
Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children	"
Marking the Liturgical Year	Diocese of Portsmouth
With Hearts and Minds	Bishops' Conference



Musical Resources

Come and See: John Burland

A Year of Celebration – Songs for Children : McCrimmon

Calling the Children : Chris Walker : OCP Publications

Includes a set of Eucharistic Acclamations.

Celtic Mystic Moods: Seamus Byrne

Children at Heart : Paul Inwood : OCP Publications : 0-915531-895

Includes Acclamations for the Word, Dismissal Chants for Children's' Liturgy of the Word, several Eucharistic Prayer settings and a bereavement song for children.

The cassette and CD also include all the music without voices which can be used for accompaniment purposes while learning the music.

Christ Be Our Light: Bernadette Farrell

Classic FM: Various Artists

Come All You People - 40 shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

Dreamcatcher: Secret Garden

Fire of Love: Margaret Rizza

Fountain of Life: Margaret Rizza

God Beyond All Names: Bernadette Farrell

How Can I Keep From Singing 1 & 2: CJM Music

Light The Fire: Liam Lawton

Out of the Ark Assembly hymns and Christmas Carols

Quiet Time: Frank Leto



Rejoice and Sing: CJM Music

Rejoice One and Rejoice Two – Songs for Celebration