



Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement:

Let it be known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever present teacher in all its classes, the model for its children, the inspiration for its staff.

Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ!

1 Aims and purpose

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.

2. 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.

3.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.'

Every Child Matters Outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve;
 Make a Positive Contribution

4. 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.¹ 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 schools will be:

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

5. Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, in classes.

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.



We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes Father or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the liturgical calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. 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. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis 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.

Whole School Assembly on Monday and Friday for 20 mins

Key Stage assembly once per week for 20 mins

Class Assembly one per week for 20 mins

Daily prayer 5 - 10 mins per day depending on age group

Meditation 2-3 times per week

6. Resources

All paper resources – books, posters, are kept in the RE cupboard in the ECAR room.

Tapes and CDs are in the music cupboard in the Hall alongside the music system.



Voluntary Worship and Retreats

(e.g. sharing a morning mass with parishioners during Feast days, Lent etc See RE handbook

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

Headteacher and RE Subject Leader

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator 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.

Disability Equality Scheme

This policy supports the school's Disability Equality Scheme and it is available in a range of different formats, for disabled parents and the wider public.

Signed: *Linda Payne*
Adrian Ramsden