

St Joseph's RC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Review Date: October 2022

Next Review Date: October 2023

Collective Worship Policy



St Joseph's is proud to be a Catholic School. Everything we aim to achieve will be based on the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church. Through this Catholic ethos we strive to develop in the school community respect and care for everyone.

In partnership between staff, children, parents, parish and the wider community we want to give every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential by developing their own gifts and talents. We aim to create a successful learning environment where all feel welcome, safe and part of the community. We wish through the whole life of our school for every child to realise their own worth and value.

St. Joseph's is a Catholic School and its policy on Collective Worship is inseparable from the teaching of the Catholic Church and the truth she proclaims. In St. Joseph's 'Collective Worship' is recognised as our participation in Christ's work - His worship of the Father and His transformation of us through the Holy Spirit. There are two distinct but interrelated aspects to 'Collective Worship', Liturgy and Prayer. The school's celebration of liturgy and prayer is an integral part of teaching and learning helping to give each member of the school community the opportunity to become the person God has created them to be. To support this we use ten ten resources as well as our own.

Liturgy

A unity of body and soul, the human person, needs signs and symbols to express and perceive spiritual realities, at the same time, as social beings we need signs and symbols to communicate with others, and with God, through language, gestures, and actions.

The Liturgy is the action of the Church that uses ritual, symbols, music, drama, art, and language to communicate the action of Christ, the Word of God made flesh. First place is given to the Sacraments in which, participating by the power of the Holy Spirit in the mystery of Christ who offers the perfect prayer to the Father, we are saved and encounter Divine Love. (CCC 1073, 1066, 1068)

In the celebration of the liturgy the following should be in evidence:

Reverence, out of respect for the dignity of God and the dignity of each person; reverence manifested by the behaviour of the children and the example of leaders and teachers.

A growing and age appropriate awareness of what the Liturgy is, and an active engagement that leads to intellectual, emotional and spiritual enrichment (SC 11).

The centrality of God's Word in every act of Liturgy and Prayer, expressing the reality at the heart of worship - a dialogue between God and His children (CCC 1153). God's Word is fundamental to the

school which in everything proclaims and teaches the truth. It is expected that the Word of God is proclaimed at all collective worship.

Singing and music based on the principles established in the Catechism (CCC 1157).

The liturgical seasons, which, over the course of the year, unfold the whole mystery of Christ and His Church.

Prayer

Prayer is the raising of the heart and the mind to God. A loving response to God's unconditional love revealed in Jesus Christ. Ultimately it is our union with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit as he receives all from the Father and gives himself in love and gratitude to the Father.

The school will help all in the school to grow in their understanding of prayer, desire for prayer and ability to pray.

It will do this by:

Teaching the children to reflect upon and meditate upon the Word of God both in common and individually.

Helping children to identify, appreciate and practise prayer in a liturgical context.

Introducing children to popular piety, such as the Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy, etc.

Developing the meaningful memorization of basic prayers, words of Jesus, of important Bible passages, such as psalms and canticles, the Ten Commandments, the Creeds and liturgical texts. (Pope St. John Paul, *Catechesi Tradendae*, 55).

Reflecting upon Divine beauty, goodness and truth as it is revealed in the beauty, goodness and truth of creation.

Enlisting the aid of the Saints as a living force and presence in the Church, because they contemplating God, praising God, and caring for those whom they have left on earth (CCC 2683). Above all developing a devotion to Mary - Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and our Mother. Our Lady is the model of education - one who hears, who ponders and brings the Gospel to the world in the fullest way.

To incarnate these aspirations there will be:

A weekly assembly with the children

Daily prayer in class at the beginning of each morning and each afternoon and at the end of the day.

A weekly mass in school which children and teachers are invited to attend

A weekly mass in Church attended by a year group

A weekly visit by children to Church or the school chapel to spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Annual opportunities for the older children to spend a day in recollection and prayer

The implementation of the policy is monitored by the teacher responsible for RE, the Parish priest of St Josephs and the Governors.

The School will keep the parents of the children informed of all these activities and respect the statutory rights of parents who may not wish their children to participate in some of these activities.

Review

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This policy will be enforced in a positive manner and reviewed annually