



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

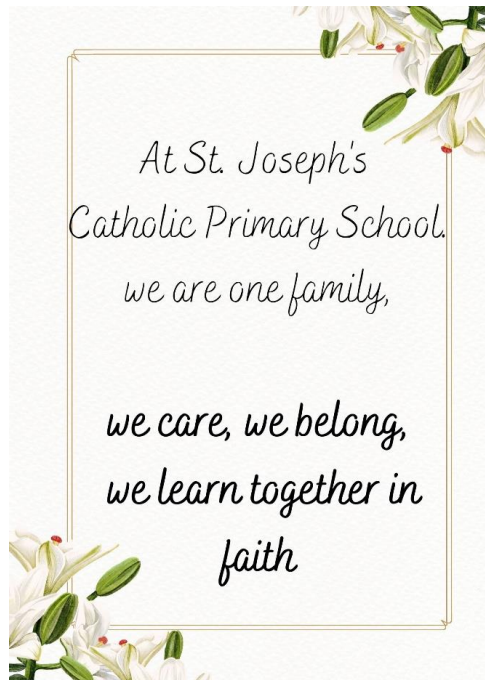
‘In the faithful care of St Joseph, Jesus prospered’

St Joseph's is a Catholic primary we are one family.
We care, we belong, we learn together in faith.

Written: December 2022

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Our Vision

In the faithful care of St Joseph, Jesus prospered. Our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children aim high and achieve to their full potential.

Our Mission

St Joseph's is a Catholic primary we are one family. We care, we belong, we learn together in faith.

We:

- promote the partnership of home, school, church and community;
- pray together, grow in faith and live the Gospel values;
- respect and care for everyone and everything around us;
- value each child as an individual;
- encourage our pupils to develop active and creative minds;
- promote self-esteem and confidence;
- set high standards of learning;
- celebrate the achievements of each and every child.



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 Catholic Primary School

Worship 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.

1 Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St. Joseph's Catholic Primary 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 Catholic Primary 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.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below. Also see Prayer and Liturgy Plan in Appendix.

Day	Content	Venue	Age group	Led by
Monday	Whole school Ten ten based on Sunday gospel / Gospel value	Hall	Whole school	Miss Savage
Tuesday	Class worship (adult led child led in upper school)	Classroom	All Classes	Class teachers
Wednesday	Hymn' s based on time of year / feast day etc	Hall	Whole school	Miss Savage and Father Paul
	Rota for Mass attendance	Church		
Thursday	Class worship (adult led child led in upper school)	Classrooms	All classes	Class teacher / Pupils
Friday	Celebration assembly including scripture reading and reflection	Hall	Whole School	Miss Savage

Leading collective worship

As faith leaders of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead whole school collective worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored termly through observations, pupil interviews, looking at prayer and liturgy folders and auditing resources. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has a box of resources that can be used for Collective Worship. They may choose items from the box when planning and leading their own worship.

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

In Key Stage 2 pupils visit Castlerigg for a one day retreat. Pupils are given opportunities for voluntary worship through parish celebrations e.g. Stations of the Cross and prayer stations within school. Staff are given opportunities for voluntary worship through RE focused training days and participation in the pupil centred opportunities.

Eucharist

Children attend Mass at St. Joseph's Church, on a rota basis as well as on Days of Obligation and Feast days. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

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.