

St Joseph's RC Primary School
Collective Worship Policy
God wants me to be the best me I can be



Our Mission Statement

Jesus is the centre of Our Lives

Through his teaching we aim to value ourselves and each other
as unique and precious individuals created by God.

We encourage and develop love and respect for each other and
for our world.

We strive to promote and deepen our Catholic faith through
prayer, work and play.

We aim to foster a loving, caring environment in which each
child can freely learn and develop to their full potential.

School Prayer

Jesus is the Centre of Our Lives

We care and share

We forgive and forget

We live and learn

We love and respect

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.'

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.

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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.

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

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- 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
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, the RE scheme, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aim an policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupil skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Children are given the opportunities to reflect on their class worships and evaluate each session. Children use the Mark 10 mission resources to up level ideas of prayer and worship.

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Timetable of Worship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school Worship Linking to weekly Gospel	Hymn Practice	Key Stage Worship	Class Worship	Celebration Worship
Lead by Mrs Scott	Lead by Mrs Howarth and Ms Walsh	Lead by Prayer Leaders and Mrs Howarth	Lead by Class Teachers and Prayer Buddies	Lead by Pupil Council and Mrs Scott

Linking to

Daily Lunchtime prayer sessions lead by Prayer leaders and Mrs Colak

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in worship floor books, on the school website and on the facebook page. Prayer leaders take an active role in planning and evidencing worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring follows the monitoring cycle (see monitoring overview). Lesson observations, pupil voice and questionnaires all inform current practice. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has a worship box, prayer buddies lead the resources of their class box.

The boxes includes;

- Prayer beads
- Bibles
- Cloths for the different liturgical year
- Crosses
- Rosary beads
- Prayer books
- Stones
- Statues

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'

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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.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

- Parish visits yearly
- Masses in school fortnightly
- Prayer leader worships every lunch
- Cluster networks
- Prayer leader training
- Joint schools worship sessions- power of prayer
- Valley masses
- Caritas days
- Training sessions from RE Governor for staff and children
- Sacramental programme masses

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 Lead for Collective Worship

Georgina Howarth leads RE with support from Mrs Colak and the Prayer leaders.

Job description 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.

Written September 2025

Reviewed September 2026