St Joseph's RC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Start Date:	Review Date:	Adopted:
Sep 2016	Oct 2019	Oct 2016

The Nature of Collective Worship

St. Joseph's RC Primary School, Jarrow

Collective Worship Policy

At St Joseph's 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 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

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 that those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St. Joseph's School
Worship in St. Joseph's 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship
Collective Worship in St. Joseph's 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

[1] Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- 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 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.
Each staff and Governors' meeting will begin with a prayer and staff will meet to pray during the special seasons of Advent and Lent.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.
Each Monday there is a whole school liturgy in the hall, which is usually based on the gospel of the previous day. This is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. All classes pray together at 9am.
A Key Stage 1 liturgy will take place in the hall each Wednesday and a Key Stage 2 liturgy on a Thursday.
The weekly 'Statement to live by' liturgy takes place on a Wednesday in Key Stage 2 and on a Thursday in Key Stage 1.
On a Friday we celebrate House Group work, introduce a SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) topic and each half-term we have our special God Book Assembly.
Whole School hymn practices also take place on a Friday as and when required.

In addition to the above, once a year each class from Reception to Year 3 has a class liturgy in their classroom, led by the Parish priest, to which parents and parishioners are invited. In Key Stage 2, Years 4, 5 and 6 have a class mass, which takes place in church.

Masses in church are celebrated throughout the year for feasts and special occasions, for example: St Joseph's feast; St Peter and Paul's feast; Advent; Ash Wednesday; New School Year; Leavers' Mass.

Stations of the Cross are carried out in church in Lent.

There is a Whole School Carol Service in church in December.

[2] Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

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Recording
Collective Worship is recorded in A Liturgy File, kept by the R.E. Coordinator. Powerpoints prepared and used by different members of staff are saved on the computer in the hall.

Monitoring and Evaluation
Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).
Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.
These will be discussed at a staff meeting.

Resources
A vast array of Collective Worship Resources are available in the RE cupboard in the staffroom and in the Head Teacher's Office. Music resources are available in the hall cupboard (under the laptop).

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
Each staff and Governor meeting begins with a prayer.

During specific seasons, children are encouraged to join other staff and children for lunch-time prayers. In May and October, the children who are Mini Vinnies lead the rosary on a Friday Lunchtime. During Lent, Mini Vinnies will also lead prayers on a Friday lunch-time.

Every 2 years staff attend an RE INSET day with other Catholic schools from the Local Authority.

Year 4 children attend a day's retreat at Minsteracres or the Youth Village to celebrate receiving their First Holy Communion.

Other opportunities
Year 6 children attend a day at The Youth Village with Year 6 children from other schools in the diocese.

Eucharist

Year 4 children attend a mass with other children from the cluster at St Paul's in Jarrow to celebrate the feast of St Benet Biscop. Year 6 children attend a mass with other Year 6 children from the Catholic schools in the local authority.

The coordinator for Collective Worship
Mrs M Jordan is responsible for the co-ordination of Collective Worship within school.

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.

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[3] Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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Monitoring of Collective Worship

Year Group: Date:

Focus	Comments
Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration) • Have the children been involved in the planning? • Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?	
Structure (If Liturgy) • Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? • How did children gather? • Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? • How did children respond to the Word? • Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?	
Leadership • Child or adult led? • Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?	
Engagement • Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? • Was it a prayerful experience?	
Creativity • How creative was the Act of Worship? • Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?	
Prayer Space • Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?	
Resources • Were liturgical resources used appropriatey eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts?	
ICT • Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?	
Agreed areas for development	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator... Class Teacher ...

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

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

Chair of Governors …*Mrs. A. Gibson*……..

Head Teacher ……*Mrs. E. Seagrove*……..