



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to live in the way Jesus wanted. He told us to "Love One Another as I have loved you"

We aim to fulfil our Mission by:

Living as a good news community, valuing all members equally.

With Jesus as a role model, developing in everyone a sense of self respect, belonging and respect for others.

Striving to enable all children to reach their full potential through a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum.

Working together to achieve excellence in everything we do.

Developing strong home/school and parish links.

Ensuring the success of everyone involved in the school community, nurturing their individual talents and supporting their individual needs.

Having high expectations of everyone.

Nurturing the faith journey of everyone through meaningful prayer and liturgy.

Ensuring a calm and positive atmosphere in all areas of the school.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.

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 an act of collective worship and an 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

All children are welcome to participate in Collective Worship irrespective of their denomination and to actively participate in the liturgical life of the school.

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

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 need to 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.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds – or none.
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- 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.

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 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'
- To explore their own beliefs

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children 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.

Collective worship in our school

Day

Monday

Focus

Whole school assembly based on the Gospel reading.

Led by

HT/RE Coordinator or a member of the SLT in their absence

Tuesday	Collective worship in classrooms to further explore the Gospel reading following guidance documents and planning support.	Class teachers
Wednesday	Hymn Practice (whole school)	Staff on a half termly rota
Friday	Celebration assembly with an achievement linked to the school's values	Headteacher

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical year, significant dates and the RED curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders and resources
- Through written plans
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections and photographs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regularly, the school's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated by the R.E. Coordinator to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The children are encouraged to lead collective worship both at school and in church and this is monitored and recorded through photographs and feedback.

Resources

Children's Liturgy, online CAFOD resources, Ten Ten, other web-based assembly sites and a range of books are used to support the planning and resourcing of Collective Worship.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight special occasions. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore maximising opportunities for children to participate. When preparing these celebrations, reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for good practice.

Eucharistic Celebrations are both in school and in church celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Patrick Harrigan or a priest delegated by him. These celebrations include:

- Mass/liturgy to mark the start of a new academic year and welcome new FS2 pupils/staff
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Easter Mass
- Mass to celebrate Year 6 leavers

At all these celebrations both parents and parishioners are invited to help foster links between home, school and the parish.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Regular liturgies to reflect The Liturgy of the Word

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

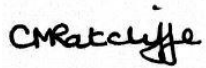
- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Regular liturgies to reflect the Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Coordinator and updated every 2 years.

Date of approval: September 2025

Date of renewal: September 2027

Chair of Governors 

Headteacher 