

# Collective Worship Policy

## St Joseph's RC VA Primary School

September 2017

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good work'.  
Matthew 5:16



## St Joseph's RC VA Primary School - Collective Worship Policy

### Mission Statement

*"We believe that each person is unique and created in God's image. In our school, we provide a distinctive Catholic education, where each child is loved, nurtured, inspired and challenged to aspire excellence and develop their individual abilities for themselves and others."*

### The Nature of Collective Worship

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.'<sup>1</sup>

### 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.

At St Joseph's, 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 than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

### The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Joseph's RC VA 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;

---

<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- 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
- 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

Members of the Parish community are invited to celebrate in Collective Worship through the parish newsletter. Children send out invitations to the parents to invite them to Collective Worship. Parents and parish members play an important part in the prayer life of the school and this is carefully timetabled.

Staff are provided with the opportunity to take part in staff prayers weekly. This takes place every Thursday morning in the Chapel. Staff prayers provide staff with the opportunity to

---

<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

further develop their faith and become closer to Christ. Prayers are also said at the beginning of the week.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

### **Weekly**

Monday- Whole School “Breaking the Word”

Tuesday- KS2 Worship (Chapel)/ KS1 Class Worship

Wednesday- Whole School “Statement to Live By” (Planned and delivered by a class)

Thursday- EYFS- Class Worship and KS1 Worship (Chapel)/ KS2 Class Worship

Friday- All Class Based Worship

The length of the Collective Worships will vary although they are anticipated to last 10-15min.

Members of the Min- Vinnie’s also take part in prayer at the beginning and end of each meeting.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded individually for each class. Each class has a Collective Worship file where children use the ideas and suggestions to plan and deliver their own Collective Worship. The main elements of an effective Collective Worship (Gather, Word, Respond and Going Forth) are outlined for the children to follow. When needed, staff may help and support.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1) and is timetabled accordingly. The monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out by the RE Coordinator or Headteacher. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

### **Resources**

All resources are available for children to use within school and are clearly labelled. Some resources, that may be needed frequently, are located in specific classrooms. Other resources are located in the R.E Cupboard next to the Chapel. All are clearly labelled. Within school, we have a range of resources including:

- Bibles,
- Candles,
- Prayer cards,
- Artefacts for different religions,
- Holding crosses,
- Liturgical cloths,
- Pebbles and stones and
- Rosary beads.
- Welcome to the Mass
- Staff and pupil daily prayer books.

### **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'<sup>3</sup>

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**

Throughout the year children are given the opportunity to take parts in Retreats.

Y4 – Retreat to St John's (Local Secondary School)

Y6- Emmaus Youth Village

Other retreats are organised throughout the year.

### **Eucharist**

Children are given the opportunity to celebrate Mass in school frequently and receive the Eucharist. Pupils from the school are also selected to take part in the 'Good Shepherd Mass' that takes place yearly. At the beginning of each year reception children celebrate Mass together, at St Mary's Church, along with another local primary school.

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

The coordinator for Collective Worship, at St Joseph's, is Mr Hunt.

### **The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship

---

<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

#### **Professional development / Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising in-service 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

#### **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.

#### **Rights Respecting School**

As a Rights Respecting School, we ensure that the key principles: inclusion, nurture and respect are embedded in the Collective Worship policy.

## Appendix 1

Year Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Monitoring of Collective Worship

Focus	Comments
<b>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have the children been involved in the planning?</li> <li>Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?</li> </ul>	
<b>Structure (If Liturgy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified?</li> <li>How did children gather?</li> <li>Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently?</li> <li>How did children respond to the Word?</li> <li>Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?</li> </ul>	
<b>Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child or adult led?</li> <li>Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?</li> </ul>	
<b>Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically?</li> <li>Was it a prayerful experience?</li> </ul>	
<b>Creativity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How creative was the Act of Worship?</li> <li>Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?</li> </ul>	
<b>Prayer Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts?</li> </ul>	
<b>ICT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?</li> </ul>	
<b>Agreed areas for development</b>	

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

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...