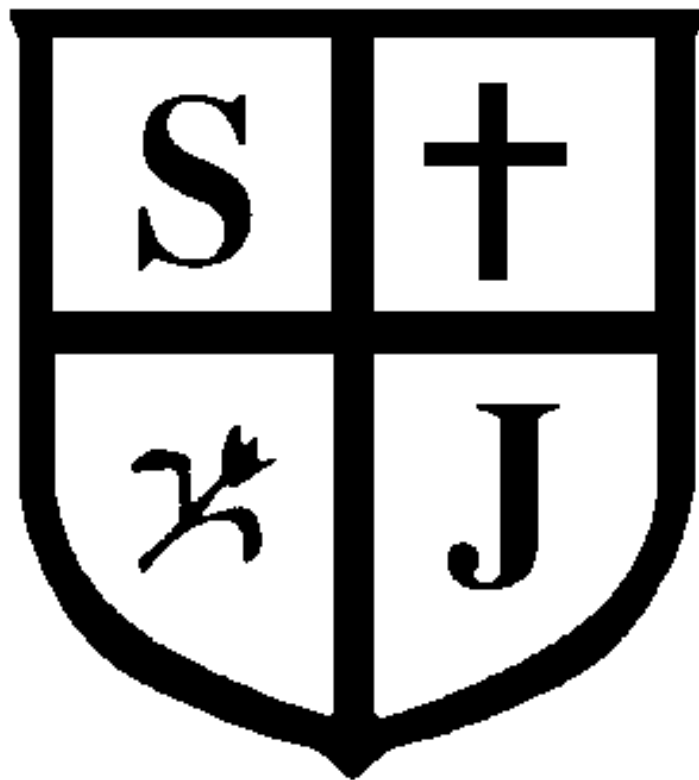

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



“A loving Christian family, striving to
achieve excellence.”

Mission Statement

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary school we are
'A loving Christian family, striving to achieve excellence'.

Our mission is to develop a Christ centred community, which recognises Christ's love in every person and reflects the gospel values in the life of the school.

General Statement

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary school we believe our Collective Worship underpins the whole community, which enables the children to develop a sense of worth in God's care.

It is an important part of the child's religious experience within our school. It links with our Mission Statement:

'A loving Christian family, striving to achieve excellence'.

Why Collective Worship?

- ✓ to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God;
- ✓ to provide an enriching and positive religious experience, where children become active participants developing in their faith journey;
- ✓ to develop a greater sense of who they are within the home, parish and wider community;
- ✓ to provide opportunities for those children where school may be their first experience of church;
- ✓ to provide an awareness of other Christian traditions and faith backgrounds.

Responsibility of Collective Worship

- ✓ GOVERNORS have the responsibility of agreeing on a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher;
- ✓ HEADTEACHER role is to ensure that an act of Collective Worship is provided for every child daily (Noted on class timetables);
- ✓ TEACHERS plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day, sometimes acting upon a child's initiation;
- ✓ PARENTS can be invited to participate in Collective Worship (particularly a celebration of Come and See topic);
- ✓ PUPILS must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship and may initiate their own for the class.

Collective Worship at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School our acts of Collective Worship occur on a daily basis for every child within the school in a number of ways.

Collective Worship in the Classroom

Daily acts which vary in duration and time of day, depending on the ages of the children involved:

Foundation Stage: 3-4 minutes

Key Stage 1: 5-7 minutes

Key Stage 2: 7-11 minutes

They may be teacher-led or generated by class discussion, thoughts, prayers, singing and/or reflection. They may be initiated by individual children too.

- creating a sense of unity and belonging;
- sharing real-life experiences (e.g. weather, natural world);
- offering a reflective experience where children may contribute;
- answering the “Big Questions.”

Teachers and pupils use the format provided by the Christian Education Department:

GATHER – LISTEN – RESPOND – GO FORTH

Collective Worship through whole school gatherings

Whole School Assemblies:

- Headteacher and Key Stage Leads lead Collective Worship on Monday, including themes linked to Come and See, themes around the liturgical calendar. These include responses to Scripture, Staff ensure that there is a “Go Forth” so that the theme is continued the week by all pupils and staff;
- Class-led assemblies which celebrate Come and See topics (on rota basis) or special season (Harvest, Advent, etc).

Monday assemblies (example)

Children come into the hall and gather around a focus tables with their hands joined whilst gentle music plays.

Leader introduces theme for Collective Worship, then begins with a prayer. Theme is explored – children’s contributions encouraged and valued.

Delivery may be done using Powerpoint, posters, scripture, prayer, etc

All are given time to reflect and consider Christian values in practice for the following week with a GO FORTH task or reflection.

Class-led assemblies

Using the Come and See topics, each class leads an assembly on a rota basis through the academic year. The R.E.co-ordinator ensures each class knows which topic/theme they will lead.

The teacher plans with the children from the work done during the topic (if relevant to Come and See) so that they are directly involved in their own Collective Worship.

The assemblies:

- Develop a sense of purpose, sharing with a wider audience;
- Bring Come and See together – other year groups gain a new understanding of the topic;
- Celebrate and develop gifts – public speaking, acting, singing, etc;
- Welcome family/wider community, helping our commitment to community cohesion.

Collective Worship through Liturgy

We endeavour to include our Parish Priest, Father Sean, in special Masses/liturgies during the year. On these occasions, school, families and parishioners come together.

The R.E. co-ordinator usually prepares these celebrations in consultation with the Headteacher and priest.

Examples of liturgies:

Beginning of school year
Harvest Festival
Advent
Reflections during Holy Week
Leavers' Mass

Collective Worship through the Liturgical Year

Easter – celebrated using relevant Come and See topic but supplemented with special class-led assemblies

Christmas – Traditional Carol Service in church with readings, singing, acting

Classrooms

All classes have Come and See displays and focus tables.

Candles and music enhance the prayerful, reflective nature of Collective Worship.

Stay and Pray

The school community is invited to year group or class Stay and Pray events. They take place during Rejoice at the end of every topic. They take place in a variety of places including the classroom, hall, playground etc. Governors, parents and family members are encouraged to join in these pray times to enrich their own prayer and spirituality.

Adult Liturgy

Staff participate in “Come and See for Yourself,” pray and reflection time. This takes place at the beginning of each Come and See Topic. Staff leave their thoughts and reflections as a display for the children to gather around during each topic.

Monitoring Collective Worship

The Headteacher and R.E. Co-ordinator are responsible for the monitoring of Collective Worship throughout the school. Staff may be encouraged to share good practice with colleagues. Oral feedback is given to all teachers for professional development, highlighting strengths and areas to develop.