

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury

Collective Worship Policy



“Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together”

Aims and Intent

As a Catholic school, our aim is to provide a caring community in which each child has the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. We believe that the relationship with God should be developed through prayer and worship which are celebrated in classrooms, in the whole school and within the wider community. All the staff, governors and children work hard to promote our mission statement by living as Jesus taught us, so that we can work, learn, play and grow together, by “walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together”. In partnership with home and parish, we strive to accompany our pupils as they travel on their faith journey. Children will live their faith, always aware of the presence and love of Christ, guiding them through life.

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

- At St Joseph's 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 e.g. Key Stage assemblies). 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. Collective Worships, where teaching and learning take place, can be included as part of the RE curriculum.
- In this school, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.



The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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;
- all staff will actively participate and support collective worship to the extent that their faith and experience allow them to feel comfortable, but will act as role models for the student body;
- 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 a learning or spiritual experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain;
- worship in our school is an integral part of our school life and central to our Catholic tradition.

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father, daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- prayer of silence
- spontaneous prayer
- praying through gesture or action
- formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening. 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 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time 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
- 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 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.

In order to achieve the foregoing, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

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| Monday | Whole School Worship through Hymns. |
| Tuesday | Whole school Gospel assembly. |
| Wednesday | Class Based Collective Worship |
| Thursday | KS1 / KS2 – Worship based around the Bible Stories. |
| Friday | Whole School Celebration Assembly, achievements and news. |

Collective Worship will also be celebrated through:

- daily class prayers at the beginning and end of the day and before lunchtime;
- whole school Mass each term led by each class;
- whole school Mass in St Aldhelm's Church on Holy Days that fall within the school term;
- Christmas, Easter and End of Year whole school Mass held in St Aldhelm's Church;
- reconciliation service for all pupils followed by an opportunity for all KS2 pupils, staff and parents to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent;



The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Liturgical Calendar, significant dates and the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. 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 pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship;
- to mark significant events such as a silent reflection on Armistice Day;
- to celebrate Mass as a class;
- to give praise to God through music and prayer;
- to encourage the active participation of all.

Recording and Evaluating

Collective Worship is recorded:

- through planning, PowerPoint presentations, displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos, children's work, etc.

Collective Worship is evaluated:

- by the children recording a personal evaluation of the Gospel Assembly each week;
- by the Mission and Vision Governors Committee.

Resources

- RE resources are kept in the cupboards in the Hall Reflection area and also in the Head teacher's office.
- The RE Lead is responsible for providing training and support to enable teachers and pupils to plan and lead meaningful Collective Worship.
- A focal area of each classroom should be clearly defined as a Reflection Area. This should contain a Bible, Gospel reading of the week, crucifix, liturgical theme links and other interactive stimulus to encourage and focus on prayer. The area should be easily accessible for children & appropriate for their age.



Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at St Aldhelm's Church.

Children will be encouraged to participate in special Family Sunday Masses throughout the year. Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Parish Priest in which the children can actively participate.

Related policies and documents

- Religious Education Policy
- Spirituality Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour and Self Esteem Policy
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review

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| Responsible committee for monitoring & evaluation: | Mission and Vision Committee |
| Policy reviewed by: | Mission and Vision Committee |
| Policy review & approval date: | June 2020 |
| Next review date: | September 2024 |