

Diocese of Hallam Schools' Department



St Joseph's Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy:

Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

'We Live, We Love, We Learn, We Share'

Our principal role as a Catholic school is to participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by providing a framework which will help children to grow in their understanding of God, The Gospel and in the practice of their faith.

The school will help the children to develop fully as human beings and prepare them to undertake their responsibilities as Catholics in society.

We are inspired by our Catholic faith and the Gospel vision of love, equality, justice, reconciliation, mutual respect and service.

We seek to create a community which:

- offers opportunities for all pupils and staff to aspire to achieve our God given potential
- is a place where our pupils can flourish and grow emotionally, academically, spiritually, physically, morally and socially
- offers opportunities for individuals to strive for excellence, enlightenment and understanding
- ensures every individual feels safe and valued
- provides a centre of excellence where our pupils can learn to become active members of society

Introduction

'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.'

Collective Worship in a Catholic school acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of

shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our schools are shaped and sustained.

Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, must be intrinsically woven into the fabric of a school's Catholic identity. It is therefore expected that all schools will have a schedule of liturgical events which will include planned for participation in Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies such as Adoration, and the opportunity for its members to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Legal requirements

The law requires all maintained schools:

- provide daily Collective Worship for all pupils including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act);
- Acts of Collective Worship are not to be designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school this means that times of Collective Worship are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education;
- recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

In addition

- Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools;
- Governors in Catholic academies give a written commitment to do the same.
- provides a centre of excellence where our pupils can learn to become active members of society

Ethos and Values:

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we provide a welcoming and safe learning environment, one in which the talents of all children and staff are recognised and developed to the full. The children enjoy the learning process and are guided by caring, enthusiastic and highly motivated staff.

Our aim is to give each child every opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards. We encourage a 'can do' attitude and ensure that each child strives to achieve their personal best. The school is calm, ordered and well resourced. We are united by a shared mission and a clear vision for future development.

A strong partnership with the home, parish and wider community is central to the school's ethos. Success and friendship are celebrated through a calendar of shared events which include curriculum information evenings, assemblies, musical performances, drama

productions, sporting events, and PTA events. These and many more occasions enable the children to develop confidence and share their accomplishments with the community. To enable this to happen we support all pupils to develop and progress, not only academically, but as rounded, spiritual, moral, social and cultural individuals, with Catholicity as our cornerstone.

Throughout the year families will be invited to join the school when we celebrate Mass at our parish church of St Joseph's. Our children are happy, enjoy learning and are proud of their school

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 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.'

We respect the right of any parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) for the whole or part of collective worship. However, as St Joseph's is a Catholic School, it is expected that parents are in agreement to their children attending acts of worship unless a specific request is made for their child to

- be withdrawn. Equally, teachers and teaching assistants are expected to support the Catholic ethos of the school, including their attendance at acts of collective worship.
- Collective worship at St Joseph's closely follows the Church's liturgical year. The programme of assemblies also celebrates other major events in the life of the school. The timing of assemblies is, dependent on changes in the dates of different feast days, but the programme follows this pattern:

Assemblies and Whole School Liturgies

Monday 1:15 -1:45pm	Gospel reflection Assembly led by Mrs McFarlane
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Thursday 2:45PM	FS2 / KS1 Liturgy led by the FS2 / KS1 team
Thursday 1:15PM	KS2 Liturgy led by the KS2 team
Friday 1:15 – 1:45pm	<i>MAKER SPIRIT</i> Celebration Assembly led by Y6 House captains and SLT

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the 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 in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship and to be active participants.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated 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.

Resources

A variety of resources are available for Collective Worship including Ten:Ten, Mission Together, CAFOD, SPCK,

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator 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.

Updated September 2024

Date of Next Review September 2026