

St John's Catholic Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

“Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together”

We aim

- To live out the teachings of Jesus in our everyday lives.
- To promote an open and welcoming atmosphere to all.
- To encourage and promote a spirit of partnership within the community that enhances the life of the school.
- To raise awareness of the wider and global community.
- To provide a good quality, broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which will enable every individual to achieve their full potential.

Collective Worship – What?

**“Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.”
(Circular 1/94)**

**“Prayer is the surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”
(St. Teresa of Lisieux)**

The policy for Collective Worship in St John's School is based on our overall aim that we come together as one body – in any numbers – to praise and thank God for the gifts which he continually gives us and, through the teaching of the Gospels, to think about and reflect on how we live out God's love for us.

We are also asking the children to think of others in a wider context- parish, local community, country and global - as well as being in solidarity with our school family, current events and seasons of the year through prayer and communication with each other.

Collective Worship in St John's takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- those from other Christian traditions
- those from other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship is a Spiritual experience:

- to which all can contribute
- from which all can gain

Worship in St. John's School is more than a legal requirement. It is central to the Catholic education of our children and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, is Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart.

Our Collective Worship is a time when staff, children and any visitors come together to worship as a Catholic community. We aim to have a focus of ideas at this time and also a focal point for the children to make their own private prayer.

During each period of Collective Worship children are invited to pray (formal/informal prayers), given time to reflect on the focal point of worship and encouraged to contribute to the worship.

Each day should begin and end with formal prayers in class unless Collective Worship is timetabled for these specific times.

Grace before meals is said at lunchtime.

Collective Worship – Why?

Aims:

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God and:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to reflect on personal belief
- to respond to, and celebrate, life
- to enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- to mark occasions as special
- to wonder at
- to take time out
- to build a firm foundation for liturgy
- to enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- to develop community spirit
- to encourage a common ethos and share values

Collective Worship – Who?

Governors have the responsibility for Collective Worship policy in consultation with the Head teacher and staff.

Head teacher's role is to ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.

Teachers plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents can be invited to participate in Collective Worship.
(Parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship)

Pupils must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship.

Collective Worship – Where?

Collective Worship in St John's School takes place in a variety of formal and informal situations.

Classroom

The majority of daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the classroom.
At the end of a Come and See topic, parents may be invited to the "Rejoice" celebration in either the classroom or the school hall.

School Hall

Collective Worship takes place here when we meet as a school community for:

- Special assemblies
- Whole school celebrations

Church

When opportunities arise for classes and/or groups of children to visit St. John's Church:

- Mass at the beginning of the academic year
- "Welcome" service for Reception children
- During the Sacramental Programme
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Staff Worship

Staff come together for reflection before each new R.E. topic ("Come and See for yourself")

Collective Worship – How?

Collective Worship in St. John's takes place in a variety of formal and informal situations and provides a variety of experiences which:

- can be led by staff, pupils, clergy or visitors
- can be offered as a class, year group, key stage or whole school
- uses a balance of reflection, silence, prayer, response, music or song
- provides a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols or lighting
- ensures the experience is appropriate to the age, background and ability of pupils
- respects the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to worship
- sets an atmosphere of order and occasion (including entry and exit)
- ensures the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

Resources may include:

- candles
- natural objects (wood, rocks, flowers etc)
- Objects related to the topic being covered (a gift, a baptismal robe)
- IWB
- Power point presentations
- Reflective music
- God's / Church's Story

Planning, recording and evaluating

Planned:

- in accordance to school aims and policies
- with reference to the Church's calendar, significant dates and curriculum
- use of the collective worship planning sheet (See Appendix 1)
- with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community

Recorded:

- through displays, collection of pupils contributions, prayers, reflections or photographs
- through note of themes

Evaluated:

- regularly by pupils and staff

Funded:

All resources are subject to budget considerations in consultation with the head teacher or R.E. co-ordinator.