



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Spirituality, Prayer and Collective Worship Policy

Date of Approval	20.3.19
Date of Next Review	2 years
Review led by	RE Co-ordinator
Approved by	Full Governing Body
This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents	
Notes	



MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School strives to promote the education and development of all our children.

Learning through the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by his example, we celebrate our uniqueness and our distinctive gifts.

Growing in our Catholic faith we have high aspirations for all.



Aim high, live and learn with Jesus, everyone welcome



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Spirituality, Prayer and Collective Worship Policy

The Nature of Spirituality, Prayer and Worship

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 words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Place of Spirituality, Prayer and Worship in the Life of our School

Spirituality is the essence of being human – to be related to God. We recognise that we are created by God, in His image and likeness, and that Prayer and Worship call us into relationship with Him. Spirituality, Prayer and Worship are therefore an integral part of school life at St Joseph's and central to the Catholic tradition.

Our aim is to educate pupils in the experience of liturgy and worship that actively involves them in a way best suited to their age and stage of development to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. 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
- 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 Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To nurture the uniqueness of each individual as a member of God's family
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of: Reverence, Contemplation, and Reflection
- To enrich religious experience and assist the Church in its mission of making Christ known to all people
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer, worship and spiritual reflection
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ and God our Creator

The Learning Environment

All classrooms will provide the following to nurture spirituality and prayer:

A prayer table and display related to the Church season and the topic being taught through 'Come and See'. The focus area should have a Bible, crucifix, candle and any other objects or symbols which encourage reflection and spontaneous prayer.

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Children are encouraged to understand prayer as a conversation with God in which we listen to what God wishes to communicate to us. Children are made aware of the many ways in which God makes himself known, through creation, the sacraments and through His Word. We help children to explore prayers of adoration, thanksgiving, praise, and repentance. All children are given the opportunity to pray through a variety of media including dance, music, song, drama and art.

Prayer is a part of the beginning or end of an RE lesson taking the form of prayer, meditation or reflection.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.

Celebrations will:

- be appropriately paced and engaging
- include a range of experiences through language, music, dance, drama and art in a variety of settings.

Assemblies are an experience of Worship and can be presented in a variety of forms. They are prayerful and encourage openness to God.

All assemblies begin with the Sign of the Cross, lighting of a candle and include elements of prayer and praise.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship. Pupils will develop skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship in a meaningful way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

Proclaim – liturgies will normally centre on a text from the Bible from which The Word of God will be proclaimed.

Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.). We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers).

Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

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Recording

Prayer and Collective Worship are recorded:

- through displays, prayers and hymn sheets, reflections, spiritual journal, photographs, etc.
- through pupil response/in discussion or written comment/diary

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

Central to the Catholic faith is the understanding that although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. In our Worship, we recognise and provide for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated. We ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to thrive and achieve success by helping them to reach their full potential and to develop a positive self-image. We aim to ensure that resources reflect the multi-cultural society in which we live, enhancing awareness, developing respect for and knowledge of other faiths and cultures. This is essential in preparing children to take their places in a multi-cultural society.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by SLT and governors 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

Each planning team has a copy of 'Come and See' relevant to their year group. A class set of Bibles are available in each key stage and RE resources in class and shared. A class Bible is displayed on each RE table in all classrooms.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship; therefore, opportunities for children to participate will be a priority. Children prepare readings, hymns, bidding prayers and offertory procession. Each year the school will celebrate Mass at the Welcome Mass, Leavers' Mass (at the beginning and end of the school year), St Joseph's Day, once a term as a class group and any other appropriate feast day that falls within the school year.

The Co-ordinator for RE, Prayer and Collective Worship

Collective worship is co-ordinated by the RE Co-ordinator in consultation with the head teacher and liaising with the parish priest as appropriate.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.