



Collective Worship Policy

School Responsibility	Mrs Helena Harvey
Headteacher	Mr L Gilhooly
Governor	Fr Nicholas Hird
Adopted	February 2023
Review	February 2026

ETHOS STATEMENT

The School was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The School is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Leeds in particular:

1. Religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
2. Religious worship is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

And at all times the school is to serve as witness to the Catholic faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph is our patron saint and he inspires and guides us in our school mission:

- *Each one of us is part of God's family and we are all special*
- *As God's children and family we love one another, pray together, play together and walk hand in hand with God*
- *God is our teacher and we are his gifts. He helps us learn together, work hard and do our best to make our world a better place*
- *With fun, laughter and friendship we celebrate God's love*
- *We respect and care for everyone and for God's wonderful world*

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE 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 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

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils although recognise that parents have a right to withdraw their children. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents are made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. 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.

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
- 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 an educational or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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.’

PRINCIPLES

All Acts of Worship in St Joseph’s will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of St Joseph’s 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 help 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.

THE PLANNING CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure (Gathering, Listen, Response & Go Forth) with reference to the Church’s seasons, ‘The Way, the Truth & The Life’, values & virtues, 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 rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT ST JOSEPH’S

Whole School Collective Worship takes place on Monday mornings from 9:00 – 9:30am (led by the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher). Collective worship will be based on Gospel readings from the last Sunday Mass and the weekly Ethos Statements.

Whole School Collective Worship also takes place on Friday mornings from 9:00 – 9:30am. On most Fridays, a whole class will deliver an assembly which will be followed by a Collective Worship linked to the theme of the assembly. After this, awards are presented to the children. On Fridays where there is no class assembly, the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher or Collective Worship co-

ordinator will lead the Collective Worship which will link to the themes of that week or what is relevant.

Class based Collective Worship takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays at a time appropriate to the class (led by individual class teachers and in KS2 led by small groups of children. See Appendix 1-2 for guides to planning Collective Worship) with the themes outlined on the Collective Worship planner.

EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic celebrations highlight a special occasion and are celebrated with children and the whole school regularly throughout the school year. 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 maximised. Children in Year 4 receive the Sacrament of Communion; they have preparation classes after school with Parish Catechists.

Whole School Masses take place once a half term (at the start of each term and at the end of each term). In addition to this, Masses are held for special events on the Liturgical calendar and Holy Days. These are led by one KS2 class or by children from a range of classes. Parents and parishioners are invited to join together with the children to worship. Children who altar serve are invited to serve during whole school masses.

Every class in Key Stage 2 has a Class Mass each term, held in their classroom. Children organise and prepare the Masses which parents and parishioners are invited to so that they can worship together with the children.

Key Stage 1 Masses are held once a term in church. Each class takes it in turn to prepare and lead the Mass (Year 2 – autumn; Year 2 – spring; Reception – summer). Parents and parishioners are invited to join together with the children to worship.

RECONCILIATION

Children in Years 4 – 6 are given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school during Advent and Lent. Children in Year 3 receive the Sacrament during the Spring term after preparation classes with Parish Catechists.

RECORDING

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a Collective Worship planner to keep notes of the themes, leaders and resources
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

□ Each class will record collective worship in a 'Class Collective Worship Book.' This should include planning produced by children, photographs of collective worship, reflections and prayers from the children.

□ Each class will also have a prayer table where prayers, scripture and religious artefacts can be displayed.

RESOURCES

Each class will have a box of resources for Collective Worship, which will include:

- Different coloured to drapes to match the Liturgical colours
- A Crucifix
- Bibles
- Prayer Books
- Saint Books
- Candles
- Rosary beads
- Shells/pebbles

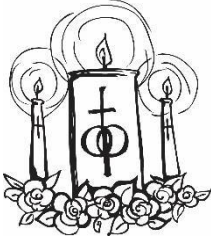
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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.

POLICY AND MONITORING REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every 2 years.


Pupil-led Collective Worship Planning Sheet


Class/Key Stage/Whole School/ Other Worship	Leaders	
Date	Focus	
PREPARATION/GETTING READY		
	What we will do:	What others will do:
<p data-bbox="204 875 343 904">Focal Point</p> 	<p data-bbox="450 875 884 947">What will your focal point look like? (Describe or draw)</p> <p data-bbox="450 1335 619 1364">We will need:</p>	
<p data-bbox="204 1641 357 1713">Creating the mood</p>	<p data-bbox="450 1641 1161 1713">How will you create the right mood/ atmosphere as people gather to worship?</p> <p data-bbox="450 1861 536 1890">Music:</p>	<p data-bbox="1246 1641 1513 1789">How will you direct people as they gather and prepare them for worship?</p>

	<p>Lighting:</p> <p>Seating:</p>	
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THE ACT OF WORSHIP

<p>Gather</p>	<p>Who will welcome everyone and how?</p> <p>How will we introduce the focus of the collective worship? How can we link it to people's experience?</p>	
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<p>Listen</p> 	<p>What Bible reading/s will you use?</p> <p>Who will read/role play?</p> <p>What prompts/props will you use, including ICT? Who will use them?</p>	
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<p>Respond</p>	<p>How will you respond to the Bible reading in a prayerful way? What do you want to pray about? How will you do it?</p>	
<p>Go Forth</p> 	<p>What message/s do you want people to take as they leave? How will you help them to do this?</p> <p>What prayer will you share?</p> <p>What will the final message be?</p> <p>Who will say it and how?</p>	

APPENDIX 2

Children Leading Collective Worship Progression

Teachers need to prepare and lead most Acts of Worship and be an excellent role model for children to emulate. Teachers should withdraw input gradually at the appropriate time depending on the age and stage of development of the children. Children leading worship should never detract from it being an enriching experience where glory, honour and praise is given to God.

KEY STAGE ONE

At this stage, in most acts of worship the teacher will lead and model collective worship. At this age, children are facilitating worship rather than leading it. They may lead certain parts/elements.

Reception

Children may

- Sing a gather song
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Choose artefacts from a limited selection
- Greet everyone
- Set up Prayer table
- Lead prayers
- Say what they want to pray for

Year 1

As above plus

- Choose artefacts from a wider selection
- Given the theme, choose an appropriate way to gather or go forth from a limited selection
- Teacher to help

Year 2

As Year 1 plus

- Can explain the purpose, theme and focus of the Collective Worship
- From a selection, choose one suitable element (Gather, Listen, Respond & Go forth) for the Collective Worship

KEY STAGE TWO

In Key Stage 2, teachers still need to show the children how to prepare and deliver Collective Worship. Teachers and pupils work together at first to prepare Collective Worship. Teachers

gradually withdraw support allowing pupils to take more of a lead. Teachers should provide themes and scripture and oversee the children's efforts before delivery.

Years 3 & 4

All of Year 2 plus...

- Provide a suitable focus. They understand their choice and make appropriate use of Liturgical colours.
- Lead singing
- Work ICT equipment
- Write prayers and petitions that fit the theme of the Collective Worship.
- Choose suitable ways to Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth

Years 5 & 6

All of Years 3 & 4 plus...

- Given a set theme can now select appropriate Scripture passages (initially from a limited selection)
- By the end of Y6, pupils should be able to develop all parts of Collective Worship independently with understanding when given a theme or a passage from the scripture.

