



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

(Version 4.1 October 2017)

<u>Success Criteria:</u> To ensure that Collective Worship is an integral part of school life for all pupils			
<u>Context/Aim:</u> 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 a relationship. This is made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.			
<u>Monitoring Procedures:</u>			
<u>By Whom:</u> Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee and Head of Religious Education	<u>When:</u> Biennially	<u>How:</u> Written reports by the Head of Religious Education at every Pastoral & Ethos Governors meeting	
<u>Evaluation:</u>			
<u>By Whom:</u> Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee and Head of Religious Education	<u>When:</u> Biennially	<u>How:</u> Whole school reviews	
<u>Revision History:</u>			
<u>Version</u>	<u>Approved and Ratified</u>	<u>Review Date</u>	<u>Additional notes</u>
V 4.1	October 2017	October 2019	Minor changes to locations
V 4.0	October 2015	October 2017	Additional wording added i.e. British Values
V 3.0	March 2012	March 2014	-
V 2.4	November 2010	November 2012	-
V 2.1	December 2009	December 2011	-
V 2.0	November 2007	November 2009	-
V 1.0	May 2006	May 2007	-

<u>Vision Statement:</u>
<p>St Joseph's is a co-educational, 11-16 Catholic voluntary-aided school in the diocese of Clifton and the county of Wiltshire. Our aim is to provide a caring educational environment where each person is valued and is given the dignity due to a child of God.</p> <p>At the heart of our school is the Christian vision of the human person. We want each member of our community to grow as an individual witness to the gospel values of love, truth and justice. We want each pupil to be healthy in mind, body and spirit.</p> <p>Each member of our community should feel safe and secure in the learning environment. We aim to develop a sense of self-discipline and responsibility in our pupils. Everyone in our community should show respect for themselves, respect for others and respect for the environment.</p> <p>We believe that each pupil should have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve to their full potential. We are committed to praising and celebrating achievement. We want our pupils to have high expectations of themselves to understand the value of service to others and our responsibility as stewards of the environment. Everyone has a contribution to make in helping to build the common good. We aim to equip our pupils with the ability to make good choices in their lives based on the positive relationships</p>

and values they have learned in St Joseph's.

We aim to help each of our pupils to develop morally and spiritually. We want them to achieve economic well-being while being mindful of the needs of others who are less fortunate.

We are committed to aspiring for excellence in all that we do for the sake of the gospel.

Head teacher

National Policies and guidance/courses referred to and incorporated into SJCS Policy:

Document/Course Title:

Document/Course Date:

Other SJCS Policies that relate to this Policy:

PSHE Policy

Sex & Relationships Policy

Introduction to the Policy

Worship at St Joseph's Catholic School is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is also the responsibility of ALL staff who teach at St Joseph's Catholic School to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of the pupils they serve.

Aims and Purpose

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate 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 grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'
- To witness and understand the importance of a right to live free from persecution of any kind
- To exercise their individual liberty and democratic rights

Current content and delivery

Afternoon Prayer

- The Senior Leadership Team and the Head of Religious Education lead the whole school in afternoon prayer on Monday's. The theme is generally chosen to fit in with the Church's liturgical calendar.
- Heads of House meet their House groups on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Pupil and staff participation is widely encouraged with members of our wider community also taking an active role in key assemblies.
- The theme for the week is set by the Head of Religious Education at the beginning of the year and displayed in the staffroom and on shared resources for all staff to access.

The expectation of this school is that every lesson begins with a prayer. This helps link the pupils' learning with the aims and ethos of the school community. These prayers may be led by staff or pupils. The Head of Religious Education provides a range of existing prayers of the Church for use by all staff. There are traditional prayers in the pupil planners.

The school also provides regular opportunities for all pupils to participate in Adoration and Confession.

There is a regular staff prayer group who meet regularly every Tuesday morning before school.

Voluntary Work and Retreats

The participation of pupils in voluntary work is seen as an excellent means by whereby they can develop their spiritual lives. In terms of voluntary work, there is an SVP Youth Group who are very active in the local community. We are also working closely with Kintbury where pupils have the opportunity to develop their faith.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations in school highlight a special occasion in the school's or Church's year and is offered to all pupils. As a Catholic school, the celebration of Mass is the focal point of our spiritual journey.

Services

As part of our tradition we also develop the liturgical life of the school through a variety of religious services. The function is to focus our minds on the celebration in hand for example the Prize-Giving Evening begins with a short service focusing of the gifts and talents of our pupils. The Christmas Carol Service reminds us of the true message of Christmas. During Ash Wednesday the pupils and staff help to distribute the blessed ashes and we are reminded of our need to repent and reconcile with God and others.

Legal Requirements

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 smaller groups)

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 assemblies 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.

In our school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher and Head of Religious Education.

Roles and Responsibilities of Governors, Head teacher, Head of Religious Education and staff

- The Governing Body will ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is monitored by the Head of Religious Education and that it is evaluated and reviewed by the appropriate staff and Pastoral & Ethos Governing Committee every two years.
- The Head teacher will ensure that the Policy is delivered in accordance with equal opportunity regulations.
- The Head of Religious Education will ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is following the Diocese and DfE guidance.
- All staff are expected to support the ethos of the school and help deliver the Collective Worship in a positive and meaningful way that deepens pupils' faith and understanding.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Pastoral & Ethos Governors Committee will receive a regular written report from the Head of Religious Education which details the spiritual and moral life of the school. Also contained within the report will be updates of any changes within the Religious Education curriculum. The report will specifically look at how the work going on in the school compliments the school's aims and values as a Catholic School.

As part of our internal monitoring cycle on the Catholic Ethos we also use pupil voice to give feedback on the quality of our Collective Worship and assemblies.

As a Voluntary Aided school, inspections by Clifton Diocese will provide detailed feedback on Collective Worship throughout the school and specifically how this is impacting on pupil's spiritual development.

The school has received favourable inspections from the Diocesan Advisor on Religious Education in 2003, 2004 and 2011 as well as the latest Section 48 Inspection Report in 2016 where an Outstanding judgement was achieved in the area of the Spiritual and Moral development of our pupils. Copies of this report can be found on the school website.

<http://www.sjcs.org.uk/Documents/Inspections/Section48-2011.pdf>