



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Version 5.0 April 2023

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHURCH ROAD
LAVERSTOCK
SALISBURY
SP1 1QY

Success Criteria:

To ensure that Collective Worship is an integral part of school life for all pupils.

Context/Aim:

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.

Monitoring Procedures:

By Whom: Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee Head of Religious Education	When: Biennially	How: Written reports by the Head of Religious Education at every Pastoral & Ethos Governors meeting
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Evaluation:

By Whom: Governors' Pastoral & Ethos Committee and Head of Religious Education	When: Biennially	How: Whole school reviews
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Revision History:

Version	Approved and Ratified	Review Date	Additional Notes
V 5.0	April 2023	April 2025	Rewrite
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	–

Vision Statement:

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.

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.

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.

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 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

Other SJCS Policies that relate to this Policy:

PSHE Policy

Sex & Relationships Policy

Introduction

St Joseph's is a Catholic school that welcomes all faiths. While fully respecting the faith of each pupil, the school has no wish to compromise its mission to provide an all-round education to pupils of all backgrounds. We are about being a community, which is having its unique identity and St. Joseph's is a place full of opportunities.

Our Mission Statement encompasses what we are about:

'To achieve excellence for the sake of the Gospel'

This mission is to enhance the spiritual, moral and academic development of its pupils in the setting of the school's Catholic tradition. It is part of the school's gift to invite pupils to an experience of this tradition through following St. Joseph's values from the Tree of Values, which are at the very heart of our school situated at the corridor of values. It is those values that we believe connect us all just like St John reminds us in 15th chapter that Jesus is the vine and we are his branches. Indeed, the school is happy to recognise the warm acceptance by the pupils and their parents of what the school has to offer in this respect and have a fulfilling as well as loving relationship with Christ who is at the very centre of all we do. Hence the development of our Collective Worship Policy.

Our objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities within our community, which has a strong identity striving to build on and have strong and loving relationships
- Provide opportunities for pupils, staff and parents to experience a sense of belonging to a faith-filled Christian community and to commit themselves to being of service to others just like brothers and sisters in Pope Francis' Fratelli tutti where we are reminded that we need to judge our lives and work through the lens of love.
- Respect the role of parents as the primary educators of their children.
- Be enthusiastic in imparting knowledge of Catholic faith and traditions, enabling pupils to accept truth freely and develop their own moral conscience based upon Christian values and principles.
- Promote growth and improvement in learning and living, being mindful that we have received 'every good and perfect gift from above' (James 1:17) and therefore give praise and thanksgiving to God for all that we have received.

Our vision statement:

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 being a child of God, created in his own image and likeness. (Genesis 1:27)

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.

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 and desire not to have more but be more.

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 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

As the overarching principle from which collective worship flows, Cardinal Vincent Nichols says the following about spirituality:

'We need to give pupils opportunities to reflect, in increasing depth, on what they have seen, or read, or done; to analyse their reactions; to justify the meaning they give to a particular experience. To encourage pupils to get into the habit of this kind of reflection, it is therefore, an essential part of the spiritual development.'

We see the aims of the spiritual development of our school as follows:

- That pupils know that they are spiritual beings created by God.
- That each of us is on a journey of faith.
- That we are all on different journeys.
- That this is a distinctly Catholic school community on its own special journey.
- That we need to celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our own community (school, home and parish).
- That we develop the pupils' self-esteem, self-confidence and their ability to express their inner thoughts in a variety of ways.

As a Catholic school one of the most important ways that we strive to achieve these spiritual aims is through our 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 a loving relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ.

The nature of collective worship in our school is as follows:

- Prayer and worship is at the heart of the life of the school

- Prayer takes into account the pupils' age and faith development
- Liturgy is interactive and reflective
- Liturgy is 'owned' and often led by the pupils
- Liturgy impacts on daily life and behaviour

From this rationale we see the aims of our collective worship as follows:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of the Triune God.
- To help pupils to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To positively present prayers and beliefs that come from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- To help pupils to understand that they belong to a wider Catholic community with strong links to local parishes and the diocesan community.

From these main aims we seek to:

- Reflect on moral and spiritual issues
- Explore our own beliefs
- Reflect on and celebrate life
- Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- Develop a common ethos and shared values
- Enrich religious experience
- Reinforce positive attitudes and behaviour

The principles of planning and delivery of collective worship are as follows:

- To follow a structure that parallels the church's liturgical calendar.
- To be flexible to respond to, and change with, situations within school and the wider community.
- To develop pupils' skills that enables them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always being recipients.
- To develop staff skills at all levels with regard to preparation, organisation and leading collective worship providing suitable resources and training.

Just as all children are expected to attend collective worship, we believe that it is important that all staff endeavour to attend as well. By doing this a powerful witness is given to our children and visitors of the principles of community and belonging aforementioned in this policy.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Head of RE, and supported by the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Houses, and Directors of Learning. There is close liaison with the Deputy Head on all aspects of Collective Worship and its delivery. This allows the school to evaluate all we are doing to meet the needs of pupils with regards to our rationale.