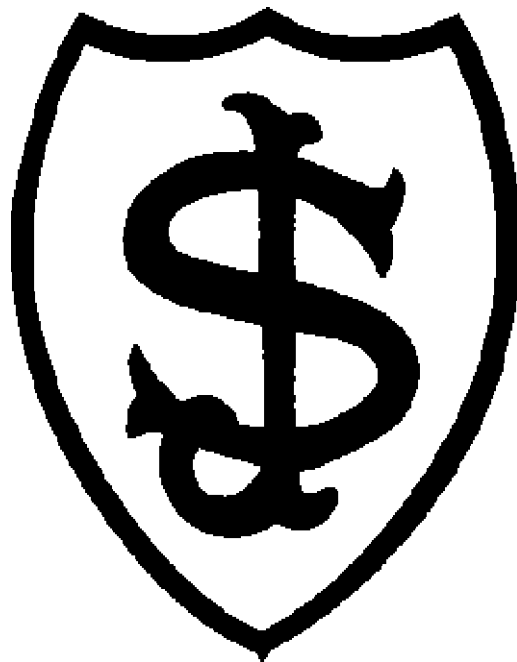


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (Prayer and Liturgy)



Version	Date	Action
1	September 2014	Updated policy
2	November 2015	Updated
3	January 2018	Updated
4	Spring 2021	Updated
5	Spring 2023	Updated by NM

Mission Statement

learning, growing, belonging... happy together in God's family

St Joseph's is a school community where we:

- promote Christian values of love, care, and respect
- equip our children with the tools of learning and help them achieve their maximum potential
- create an atmosphere of faith, in which we share and celebrate our Catholic beliefs
- work in partnership with the children, their families, and the parish
- provide a happy and safe environment in which all members of the school community feel valued
- develop the individual needs of our children to give them the confidence to participate as responsible citizens of the future.

Introduction

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The *Come and See* programme provides opportunities for celebration, prayer, and reflection in implicit and explicit ways.

Religious education is a collaborative activity that respects and promotes the capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, and imagination.

"Celebrations of various kinds which help children to understand some of the elements of liturgy (greeting, silence, community praise, especially in song) have a great part to play in the liturgical life of the church."

(Directory of Children's Masses)

It is a legal requirement that Prayer and Liturgy is provided daily for all registered pupils. It is, however, more than this. It is an integral part of school life and central to Catholic tradition and in school is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and the RE lead.

Prayer and Liturgy can take various forms. It can be an assembly celebration at the end of a topic or a simple celebration in the classroom situation, but it should be concerned with reverence or veneration to God. In a Catholic school, prayer is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit.

In Prayer and Liturgy we must consider the audience we are addressing. Simple

searching questions that relate to children's everyday experience and age should be asked. Subject matter should relate to pupil's understanding of life, religion, and worship, as well as including relevant current affairs as a time to reflect and pray.

Aims

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy 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 be respectful and reverent towards the beliefs of others
- 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 introduce children to aspects of the Gospel message and to reflect and celebrate the Word of God at their own level
- 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

Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honor to God.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- Develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organize, and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude, and family backgrounds to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

To do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience.
- be short and appropriately paced (A child's attention span is said to last in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, *5-6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes for Key Stage 2*).
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Prayer and Liturgy in our schools will be:

- properly planned

- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Setting

The setting should be conducive for prayer, reflection, and celebration. Sometimes worship will be quiet and contemplative and at other times it will involve music, laughter, and dance. The mixture needs to be creative and varied, joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit filled.

Assemblies

Prayer and Liturgy is carried out as part of an assembly or within individual classrooms. Our assemblies are a coming together of the school community. They provide an opportunity to extend, enhance and support the programme used in the classroom.

Our assemblies can be a time of greeting, reflection, praise, thanksgiving, meditation, and celebration, and take place each week along with a celebration of the week or on a specific subject, for example, within the *Come and See* programme.

Whole school assemblies take place on a Friday afternoon, KS1 assemblies take place on a Monday morning and KS2 assemblies take place on a Wednesday morning, with additional worship led through class assemblies at different points throughout the year. The whole school is invited to join in worship with the classes who lead these. Parents are invited to the whole school assembly and class assemblies.

Structure

All forms of Prayer and Liturgy follow the accepted four-fold structure of gather, listen, respond, and go forth and particular emphasis may be placed on specific parts as appropriate.

All Prayer and Liturgy must contain some form of scripture, whether it be a full passage or just a short sentence for reflection and meditation. General class Prayer and Liturgy is planned by Nathan McQuaide (Prayer and Liturgy Lead) and is shared with staff each Friday for the next week. It is saved on the staff shared drive also. Each Key Stage adapts the Prayer and Liturgy plan to suit the needs of their class and year group.

Liturgies in School

“All those concerned with education should work and plan together to ensure that the children have some idea of God and the supernatural, in proportion to their years and degree of maturity. They can have experience of human values which are involved in the Eucharist

celebration by acting together as a community; exchanging greetings; the capacity to listen; to forgive and ask forgiveness; to express gratitude; experience symbolic actions; conviviality and festive celebrations.”

(Directory of Children’s Masses)

Eucharistic celebrations in school 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 maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *Directory for Masses with Children* as a basis for our practice.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are celebrated in Year 4 of Key Stage 2 and the children are prepared for their reception by the parish team, headteacher and their class teachers (when applicable).

Although children in Years 3 and below are not able to take part in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, all children attend school mass at various points throughout the year. All junior classes will also have their own class mass in school.

Celebrations other than Eucharistic

Key Stage One children are gradually introduced into the mysteries of faith which the Community celebrates in Eucharistic liturgy. They can be introduced to the Gospel message with a time to reflect and celebrate the message at their own level and pace. Children can be introduced to symbols and movements of the liturgy. Celebration enables children to experience being part of a community of faith. As children are aware of a sense of ritual, parts of the Mass can be incorporated in the following ways:

- Introductory Rites - simple welcome to celebration
Penitential rite / Gloria / Opening prayer - Although all three aspects can be incorporated, it is better to choose one and preference might be given to one liturgical season, e.g., Gloria during Easter season.
- A scripture passage should always be included in celebration.
- Using various methods i.e., pictures, simple responses, children can be encouraged to internalise God's message to his people.
- Art and music offer wonderful opportunities for children to enjoy and respond to celebrations.

Prayer

Prayer is a spontaneous expression of joy, sadness, and other emotions, and leads to a growing awareness of self and others in the world, and our relationship with God. Informal prayers can arise from children's simple everyday experiences, and this can encourage them to be focused, still, quiet or expressively joyful.

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers throughout the school.

Formal prayers are introduced gradually throughout the primary. Children will become familiar with them through hearing them said and joining in. They may focus on phrases which are appropriate to topics or sing simple prayers and phrases set to music.

Traditional Prayers are introduced to children in line with the *Come and See* guidance as follows. Additionally, those marked with an * can be learnt by memory:

Age 3-5 years

Sign of the cross*

Our Father

Hail Mary

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Simple responses at Mass e.g. Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)

Simple litanies of thanks and praise

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath / candles

Age 5-7 years

All those listed above, plus:

Our Father*

Hail Mary*

Glory Be to the Father*

Morning offering*

Grace at Meals*

Act of Sorrow*

Mass responses*

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayer for Lent (This is the wood of the cross, We adore you O Christ..., etc.)

Simple examination of conscience / review of the day

Age 7-11 years

All those listed above

I confess*

Angelus*

Benedictus (Luke 1:67-79)

Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Eternal rest*

Act of Contrition*

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Prayers at Mass:

Penitential Rite, Glory to God, Creed

Offertory prayers

Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children – responses

Holy, holy*

Lamb of God*
Rite of dismissal
Litany of the Saints

Prayers used for Sacramental rites
Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts
Funeral Mass prayers
Blessing and giving of ashes
Saints' prayers e.g. St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi
Some simple phrases from the Psalms