

St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy





With God's Guidance, we Love, Learn, Respect and Forgive.



Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust

Collective Worship Policy

Implementation	Whole Staff
Monitoring	Mrs Julie Spencer and Mrs Clair Dedman
Written	06.02.22
Signed (Head Teacher)	
Signed (Chair of Governors)	
Review Date	January 2024

*‘For where two or three come together in my name,
I am there with them.’ (Matt 18:20)*

The life of the school is underpinned by the school's mission statement:

‘At St Joseph's, with God's guidance, we love, learn, respect and forgive.’

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 children. We fulfill this through whole school collective worship, class assemblies, whole school Masses,

class liturgies, personal prayer, and Lectio Divina.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils, staff parents:

- 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 our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Develop in children skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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 to 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.
- be respectful and dignified; children will be expected to behave reverently and engage fully.
- To include parents, grandparents and the wider community when appropriate.

Timetable for Collective Worship

The theme for the week is introduced in the first collective worship of the week to all the children and it is then revisited in class throughout the week.

Whole school worship on a Friday happens alongside our Celebration of learning. In this we review the mission set for the week and share any work from children who have lived out the mission. We also award one child per class with 'Child of the Week' and one with 'Work of the Week'.

Our chaplaincy team, with the support of the Chaplain, plan and lead some whole school worship according to the liturgical calendar.

Two children from each class plan and lead a class liturgy each week. The children also experience personal prayer and Lectio Divina each week within their class. Each child, from Year 1 upwards, have their own prayer journal where they can reflect and record spontaneous prayer.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and are appropriate to the children's age and understanding of their faith. Opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. The wider school community will be invited to attend Mass throughout the year.

Policy monitoring and evaluation

This policy is monitored by the RE subject lead and is evaluated and reviewed by staff and governors every two years.

Date of next review: January 2024