

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This Policy was reviewed/Adopted: Autumn 2022
and will reviewed Autumn 2025.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL
POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT



St Joseph's Infant School is a Catholic School in the Diocese of Menevia. Our Mission is to teach and nurture the Catholic faith, in a community where all may live and work together to achieve the very highest academic standards.

Rooted in Christ we aim to:

1. Provide an education that develops the spiritual, academic, wellbeing and moral aspects of each individual.
2. Celebrate through prayer, liturgy and worship, allowing pupils and staff to develop and grow in their love of God.
3. Foster Gospel values in an environment which encourages the understanding of the needs of everyone.
4. Make Christ and his values known to all and be of service to society.
5. Work with parents as the first educators and continue to develop close relationships between home, school and parishes.

Rooted in Christ the children aim to:

1. To love God and be the very best that we can be.
2. Celebrate through prayer and worship our love of God.
3. Love one another.
4. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus to help others.
5. Work together to make our school the best school it can be.

Introduction

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 requirements that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.

The act of worship is not a designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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 non;
- Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an educational activity 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 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time out to 'wonder at', to 'come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Implementation

All acts of worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school 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 personalise the experience
- Be of appropriate pace and length
- Offer a range of experiences in a variety of settings.

Implementation

Collective worship in our school uses resources from the TenTen programme. It follows the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

- **We gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);
- **We listen** – a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;
- **We respond** – a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

- **We go forth** – the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Celebration of Eucharist

The school works alongside the Parishes St. Joseph's, Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Margam and has regular visits from both Monsignor Joseph and Father Andrzej to talk to classes and to attend events held by the school. Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes attend weekly Mass at St Joseph's Port Talbot.

The school is fortunate to have Monsignor Joseph as Vice Chair, Father Krzysztof and Dee Williams as RE Link Governors. They support all religious events within the school. The Headteacher and RE Link Governors work to develop the role of our Missio group in school, working on areas including leading celebrations and liturgies both within classes and with for the school as a whole, projects focus on the school, local area and global issues.

Members of our staff deliver Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at Saint Joseph's Parish and Our Lady Of Margam. Pre-covid, Headteacher and Year 2 teacher supported both parents and children through monthly meetings for Sacramental preparation. The school diary is set around liturgical points of the year.

Monthly celebrations are held in St Joseph's Parish Family School Masses. Regular liturgical celebrations are also held i.e. St Joseph's, St. David's, May Procession, and the children lead on these with support from the staff. Each class leads an assembly or mass twice a year and this links with the Come and See theme where appropriate. Parents, grandparents, Carers and Governors are invited to attend. A version of the Nativity is performed each Christmas by the main school and a separate production is performed by the Nursery. A very special portrayal of the Easter Story is performed in Church by the main school, led by Year 2 children.

Policy Monitoring and Review

Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to collective worship, taking account of the requirements of the Education

Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1966 and the School Standard Framework 1998.

In this voluntary aided Catholic school, it is the overall responsibility of governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the school's trust deed and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship.