



Prayer and Worship Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Approved by	Ethos, Discipline & Relationship Committee
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Mission Statement

St Joseph’s Catholic School is:

A calm, holy place where we pray, think and celebrate God’s world

Where we share a true love of learning through our creative curriculum

Where we celebrate the gifts and talents of every person as uniquely created in the image of God

A supportive community where home, school and church work together

Motto

Learning and laughing together in the light of God’s love.

1. Prayer and Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and 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.

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.

2. The Aims of Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship in our school provides 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 respond to and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To reinforce positive attitudes.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

3. Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience, 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.¹
- Celebrations will:
 - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

4. The Organisation of Prayer and Worship at St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School

Assemblies

Monday	09.05 KS2- Upper Hall 09.05 KS1-Lower Hall	This will be led by the Headteacher/Deputy Head and based on one of the Sunday’s Mass Readings. House points cup and acknowledgement of extra-curricular achievements.
Tuesday	KS1 and KS2	Prayer and Worship in each classroom
Wednesday	KS1 and KS2	Prayer and Worship in each classroom
Thursday	KS1 and KS2	Prayer and Worship in each classroom.
Friday	09.05 KS2- Upper Hall 09.05 KS1-Lower Hall	Whole school Assembly, led by Headteacher or Deputy to award Pupil of the Week for each class.

In KS2 the children will be taught to plan and deliver Prayer and Worship in small groups by themselves. Children across the school will take an age appropriate lead in collective worship.

Class Assemblies

The R.E. subject leader will draw up a rota for the class assemblies. These will be based within the framework of the RED, ‘Come and See’ programme but may include a celebration of work covered in other curriculum areas.

5. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church’s seasons, RED, ‘Come and See’, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship,
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies,
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community,
- to develop in pupils’ skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Spiritual Learning Journeys enable discussions to develop from the children’s own thoughts and ideas.

The format for Prayer and Worship for our school will be:

- **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- **Listen** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers.)
- **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

6. Recording

Prayer and Worship is recorded through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, in the class Spiritual Learning Journal.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship by Headteacher and R.E. Subject Leader.

8. Resources

All resources are kept in the Library, in the RE cupboards, or in the Year 3 quiet room. Items for Mass are kept by the RE Leader and Chaplain.

9. Mass

- Years 4- 6 will attend Mass, on all Holy days of Obligation falling within school time and on St Joseph's Day.
- A Liturgy for Reception Year up to Year 4 will be held in school on all Holy days of Obligation falling within school time
- Each Year group will have the opportunity to attend Mass or visit St Joseph's Redhill over the course of each academic year.
- At the end of the spring term, Year 4 will lead a service for KS2 based on the Way of the Cross.
- Key Stage 2 will prepare an advent service to take place at St. Joseph's Church in Redhill.
- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will present a play based on the Christmas Story.

10. The Co-Ordinator for Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship is co-ordinated by the RE Subject Leader with support from the school Chaplain. This policy is monitored by the RE Subject Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors.