

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary,
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2NL**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

"Live, love and learn in a caring Christian Community"

Due to the restrictions on public gatherings as a result of COVID-19, we are currently following guidance from Westminster Diocese. We will implement the following policy again when we are able to.

Introduction to collective worship in our Catholic School

Collective worship at St Joseph's is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective worship is our response to God.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups). The act of worship is distinct from RE lessons. It forms **an integral part of school life and is central to the Catholic tradition**. In this voluntary aided Catholic School, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the school's instrument of governance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. As a Catholic school we hope that parents will be fully supportive of our approach to collective worship as part of living out our mission statement. However, we recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and in such circumstances appropriate supervision arrangements would be made.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship in our school community provides opportunities to:

- Deepen our relationship with God
- Grow in spiritual, moral and liturgical understanding
- Grow in understanding of our living faith tradition
- Develop a sense of wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- Reflect upon our own individual faith journeys
- Develop the skills of prayer

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is celebrated in a variety of ways, including:

- Whole school worship
- Class worship
- Worship through hymns
- Class Mass or liturgy once a year

- Whole School Mass celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation during term time

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored as part of the RE self-review process, which reports to the Governors on all matters relating to the religious education and practice of the school.

Communication

Copies of this policy will be available from our school website.

ACJ October 2020