

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Rationale**

The gathering of the school community is an important educational and spiritual activity and will form part of the Religious Education programme which the school has developed for its pupils.

### **Procedure**

There will be a daily act of worship for all pupils at the school. This can be at any time of the day and does not have to be a gathering of the whole school.

Children will experience different types of worship:

### **Collective Worship should be:**

- Memorable and enjoyable
- Engaging and elicit response
- well resourced and planned
- flexible and respond to special occasion
- related to age, ability and background of children
- have a sense of occasion
- inclusive (children and staff)
- have scriptural content

Important Elements of Collective Worship:

- gathering (consider music, resources, setting, seating arrangements etc)
- word (biblical reading, prayer, reflection etc)
- action (ritual, movement, actions to song, response to prayer etc)
- mission (sending out, something to hold onto for daily life)

Opportunities for Shared Worship at St Joseph's:

- daily acts of worship either as a class, whole school or classes together
- Termly class worship which parents are invited to
- one Mass per term
- Easter and Christmas liturgies
- Ash Wednesday Reflection
- Harvest celebration
- Diocesan leaver's mass (year 6 only)
- Enactment of nativity through drama and song at Christmas
- Termly assembly celebrating out multi faith week to which parents are invited

### **Whole School collective worship times and days**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Whole School</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Head teacher Act of Worship based on Sunday's Gospel reading.</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Act of worship/Hymn Practice</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Class Worship for parents alternated with Act of worship lead by member of the SLT</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Class Act of Worship</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Head teachers Act of worship where certificates are given out and achievements acknowledged, alternated with class act of worship.</b>	

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship, although in line with our mission statement we would encourage participation by all.

### **Guidelines**

- Children will be taught the appropriate prayers and forms of worship appropriate to the ethos of the school i.e. Catholicism.
- Children will be encouraged to create their own prayers and share them with their peers and all members of the school.
- Collective worship will be guided by the liturgical year, the scheme of work and other relevant themes.
- Collective worship will be planned ahead of time and records of themes kept.
- Outside visitors will be included where appropriate into class/ whole school worship.
- When appropriate links may be made to aspects of other religions during collective worship as a means of developing the children's understanding of other faiths and cultures.

- Children will be encouraged to be reflective by the school providing a diverse range of reflective opportunities throughout the liturgical year.
- The school will provide areas for individual and spontaneous prayer throughout the school i.e. classrooms, library, entrance hall.
- Children will be encouraged to participate in and plan collective worship and assemblies on an informal and formal basis.
- Parents, parishioners and governors will be encouraged to be active participants in the spiritual development and worship that the children engage in.

### **EVALUATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

A range of strategies may be used to assess the impact and quality of the school's collective worship. Such strategies will be:

- Use of parent and pupil questionnaires
- Parent response book after class worships
- Use of pupil and staff conferencing
- Informal discussions during and after collective worship with parents and pupils.
- Use of the School council
- Behaviour and respect shown by pupils during worships

Information acquired through the above will be shared with parents, pupils and governors as appropriate. Developmental points will be actioned wherever possible.

This Policy will be reviewed regularly.