

St.Joseph's R.C.Primary School



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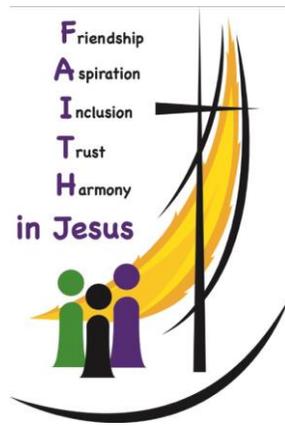
A Policy for Collective Worship

Review date :September 2018

Coordinator: Mrs A Greenwood

Updated September 2016

Our Mission Statement



Prayer is a loving relationship with God. Our collective worship, whether that be the celebration of the Eucharist in school and in church, paraliturgy or assembly, prayer in the classroom, prayer corner or outdoors it has, as its ultimate purpose, the deepening of our children's faith and their relationship with God.

“Prayer in my opinion is nothing less than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.”
St Teresa of Avila.

We are inspired by Jesus to be the very best we can be. We look after one another and show respect and love through our relationships with one another. Jesus is in our hearts and we value time to look inwardly at how our heart feels.

WORD (We learn from Jesus our special teacher)

Jesus is our special teacher. He is always with us. Through the gospel readings we are able to follow in Jesus' footsteps, reflect on our decisions and choose the right path. This allows our light to shine. At St. Joseph's we place Christ at the centre of all we do.

WELCOME (We welcome everyone into God's family)

Jesus welcomed all people with a message that is for everyone. In school we show welcome and warmth to all by inspiring one another to reach their true potential and celebrating our unique talents and gifts. We are a welcoming faith community and remember that our God is the loving Father of us all.

WELFARE (We show others that we love and care for them)

Jesus said, 'love one another as I have loved you.' We do this in school by looking after each other; especially those who are vulnerable and by putting the needs of others first in our commitment to serve. We are always ready to forgive others and we learn to say sorry with honesty, courage and meaning.

WORSHIP (We listen, think, talk and celebrate with Jesus)

Everything that we do in school is a celebration of God's creation, every subject, every activity, every moment. To help us remember this we have special times of prayer in the day, the week and over the course of the year. We celebrate Mass with each other, our parents and parish and we know that Jesus is with us in a very special way.

WITNESS (We live a life that helps other people know Jesus)

We are never on our own. Jesus is with us in every place and situation in school, at home and wherever we may go. This gives us a special hope now and for the future. We follow Jesus our teacher and friend and guide others as one body in Christ Jesus in justice and peace.

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 reasonable time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in year/school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

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

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We share 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 none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement it is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition. We acknowledge that Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

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 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 know prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully and deeply
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles

All Acts of Worship :

- Give glory and honour to God
- Provide a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and background in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church and to help personalise the experience
- are short, focussed and appropriately paced
- include a range of experiences offered, in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

See appendix 1 for an example of half termly timetable of experiences provided. Alongside this is our weekly gathering on Mondays led by the Headteacher, on Tuesdays we have a singing celebration and our own Key Stage and Class Liturgy celebrations to which children may invite other staff from other positions in school eg Cook, Caretaker, Office Manager. Our weekly gathering on Fridays led by all teachers on a rota basis, is an opportunity to celebrate the week's achievements, reflect on our weekly themes and rejoice in individual achievements or events. At least one class- led assembly takes place each half term (dependent on dates of special events eg 'Welcome back' Mass, Harvest, feast days, which can all occur in the same half term. A dedicated team of Year 5 (summer term) and Year 6 Pupil Chaplains (autumn and spring terms) prepare and lead Key Stage 2 Paraliturgy weekly. Their role has a high profile as the Chaplains are an active and visible presence for all our pupils.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship:

- follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Nurturing Human Wholeness themes, significant feasts and the curriculum. Scripture is the focus in most acts of worship, although other spiritual works are also selected;
- develops pupil skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- The teacher should always prepare and lead Acts of Collective Worship as an excellent role model for children to emulate;
- Teachers should withdraw their input gradually at the appropriate time - given the age, capacity and stage of development of the children;
- It must never detract from being an enriching experience where glory, honour and praise is given to God;
- The REJOICE part of *Come and See* is the where we start the process of involving children in preparing and leading worship;

Recording

Collective Worship:

- Is planned half termly to provide suggestions of themes, identify leaders or pupil groupings and kept in our 'Faith Journey' file on the central corridor.
- Evidenced through displays, collections of pupils' contributions; class big books, as reflections in RE books and in photographs.

Monitoring

Once a term EYFS/KS1 and KS2 worship is attended by the subject leader to consider whether it meets the needs of our pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising

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and leading worship. Staff training needs are managed through CPD in staff meeting time.

Resources

Drapes, candles, music cds, books, Bibles, posters and a selection of artefacts to create a prayer focus are held centrally in the RE resource area.

Collective Worship In The Classroom

Collective worship takes place in classes at various times throughout the day. Children recite commonly used prayers and are also encouraged to offer their own prayers of intercession. Prayers are to be linked to liturgical seasons or themes from the RE Scheme as appropriate. We make special use of the "Come and See" response booklets at the end of each topic.

Guidelines For Paraliturguy / Collective Worship

These are special times where children can feel safe, secure, relaxed and share with others a feeling of community and;

- are broadly based upon the structure of the Mass; Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth.
- are pupil centred, related to children's experiences and relevant to their
- age and maturity
- involve pupils as active participants – including as active listeners
- foster a sense of community
- be learning experiences
- have a clear theme
- include time to be still and to reflect
- include a variety of words, music and images
- include all participants in an act of worship
- involve parents and families during each half term

EYFS and KS1 formal prayers

- ✠ Sign of the Cross
- ✠ The Lord's Prayer
- ✠ Hail Mary
- ✠ Glory Be
- ✠ Grace before Meals
- ✠ School Prayer
- ✠ Home time prayer

KS2 formal prayers (in addition to KS1 prayers listed above)

- ✠ Act of Contrition
- ✠ Mass responses
- ✠ Stations Of the Cross
- ✠ Rosary

Children will develop their understanding of the meaning the Hail Mary, Our Father, Sign of the Cross, Eternal rest and their roots in scripture. KS2 children will be encouraged to develop new contemporary versions of traditional prayer.

Voluntary Worship

Children are welcome to visit our prayer corner in their own time during the day. The Prayer Corner is a quiet area on the central corridor. It is a place of special meaning during liturgical seasons for example May Rosaries, November Holy souls. Rosary beads and prayer books are available for children to use. We have a prayer tree and at intervals there are invitations to leave a thought.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations provide an intimate experience of a special occasion. Children in KS2 prepare and lead these throughout the year with the help of the Parish Priest and Catechists on a range of themes planned in advance. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the Sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. During Lent attending these celebrations deepens our connection with our parish as a worshipping community.

Policy Monitoring and Review

Collective worship in all its forms is monitored by the SLT with contributions from school staff, pupils and parents and is reported to Governors.

Coordinator responsible for development of Collective worship: Mrs A. Greenwood

Signed:
(Chair of governors)

Date: September 2016
Review due: September 2018

Appendix 1

Autumn 1 Term 2016

Week Comm.	Possible Themes/feasts	Assembly/Liturgy/Masses	Friday Assembly	Infant Hymns	Junior Hymns (AG PPA Tue)
5. 09.16	NHW1 We are all special 8th birth of Blessed Virgin (feast) <i>Antibullying/e-safety week</i>	Monday—whole school AOB Wednesday/Thursday -class based worship this week (Y6 prep for KS2 Liturgy)	AG <i>ABullying/E-safety</i>	Charlotte	Lorraine Chris feel free to observe
12. 9.16	NHW 2	Monday—whole school AOB Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy Wed	Charlotte	Lauren	Chris
19.09.16	NHW 3 21st St Matthew (Apostle) <i>Harvest letter to go out Friday-AG</i>	Monday—whole school AOB Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	Lorraine	Charlotte	Lorraine
26.09.16 <i>Hall displays by Friday</i>	NHW 4 St Vincent de Paul 27th St Michael, Gabriel, Raphael(Archangels) 29th <i>Harvest Parcels to be collected in prayer area this week.</i>	Monday—whole school AOB <i>Class Councillors to be announced</i> Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	11.00 am Mass in school Mission Statement launch Y6 lead	Lauren	Chris
3.10.16	NHW 5 St Francis of Assisi 4th Our Lady of the Rosary 7th CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY Friday 7th	Monday—whole school AOB Tuesday/Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	Y3 lead Harvest Assembly Venue-Church	Charlotte	Lorraine
10.10.16	NHW 6	Monday—whole school AOB Tuesday/Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	Charlotte	Lauren	Chris
17.10.16	NHW 7 St Luke 17th	Monday—whole school AOB Tues-Y3 'Friendship' Mass 2.30 prep 1.15 in Church Invite parents. Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	Lorraine	Charlotte	Lorraine Y3 out
24.10.16	NHW 8 St Simon & St Jude (Apostles) 28th	Monday—whole school AOB Thursday –class based worship Wednesday-Junior Liturgy Y6 lead at 3.10pm, KS1 class based Liturgy	INSET	Lauren	Chris
29th-6th Nov	Half term	All Saints 1st Nov All Souls 2ndNov			
7.11.16	NHW 9 Remembrance Day 11th Remembrance Sunday 13th	Monday—whole school AOB Wednesday/Thursday -class based worship this week (Y6 prep for KS2 Liturgy)	Ann <i>Why do we remember?</i>	Charlotte	Lorraine

Assembly, Liturgy, Mass dates

Themes from NHW unless a special occasion requires preparation eg Harvest/Mission/Mass

Themes	Suggested Resource/Tracks	Any notes/ comments/instrumental accompaniment
1 we are all special	PP 12 All through the day PP45 Children of God PP107 He brought me to his banqueting house	New known
2 I can say one good thing about myself	Each week we can pick up any from last week then... PP121 I am a new Creation PP108 He gave me eyes +Mission Statement Hymn	New but easy New but easy This can also be repeated in each class.
3 I can say how I feel	PP33 The best gift PP104 Hallelu +Mission Statement Hymn	Known New
4 I can have fun and laughter MISSION STATEMENT Mass	PP60 Dance and sing for joy PP98 God is good +Mission Statement Hymn & Mass Hymns Harvest songs from other song files on laptop.	Known Tricky opening Known just brush up
5 I know what to do if I see anyone being hurt HARVEST	PP63 Do not be afraid PP112 Here I am Lord PP 155 Jesus put this song into our hearts PP161 The kingdom of heaven PP 213 As gentle as silence	Known Known Fairly new Rusty
6 rights match responsibilities	PP49 City of God	Fairly new
7 I try to stand up for myself and others	PP83 The Gift of the Holy Spirit PP185 Make me a channel of your peace. PP 288We are one in the Spirit	New Known Known
8 I try to be just and fair	PP83 The Gift of the Holy Spirit PP221 Our Father	Revisit

This sheet is intended to serve as an aide memoire for you and your colleagues when trying to plan out what to revisit, improve and develop or start as new so that we build our collection of songs for prayer and worship.

Could you please leave this completed sheet in the hymn file each week to help the person who follows you. Feel free to change any of the suggested hymns but please make a note of it. Updated September 2016

Thanks Ann G