

Prayer and Worship Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Primary

We follow in St. Joseph's footsteps, building a community of love, trust, respect and learning.



Reviewed by Samantha Golding - Headteacher

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PRAYER AND WORSHIP PST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY CY

INTRODUCTION

St Joseph's Catholic Primary is a thriving school learning community with Christ at the centre. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child and aim to educate and prepare our children to be independent, confident and to live life to the full. Everything we do serves the Church's teaching of assisting parents as primary and principal educators to fulfil their role. Every decision is made with the children in mind, serving our Mission and Vision and following our Virtues to live by, British Values and Global Values.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary is an inclusive school which provides a challenging, stimulating and connected curriculum. The school is part of the parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church with whom there are strong links with Father Joseph. The Parish Priest regularly visits the school for Masses and other celebrations and the children attend Mass and services in the church. At St Joseph's, the dynamic home, school and parish partnership is valued as the children are encouraged and enabled to become passionate and resilient learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

We follow in St. Joseph's footsteps, building a community of love, trust, respect and learning.

As a Catholic school we value highly the daily opportunities to share and learn prayers.

All teaching and learning will be in line with our mission statement.

AIMS

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary we aim to be a community which shows love of God and one another.

We believe that collective worship at ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate the mystery of God;
- awe and wonder;
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- explore our own beliefs;
- respond to and celebrate life;
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit;
- develop a common ethos and shared values;
- enrich religious experience;
- grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- reinforce prayers which are part of St Joseph's Catholic Primary tradition and doctrine;
- reinforce positive attitudes;
- participate fully;
- take time out to wonder at, come to terms with or give worth to;
- provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God;
- encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- develop community spirit;
- promote a common ethos and shared values;
- reinforce positive attitudes.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils as a distinct activity.

PRAYER

At our school children are taught daily prayers and also the prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development. They learn that talking and listening to God is an important way of showing their love for God.

Each classroom has a focal prayer point and a RE area, and children pray, together with their teacher, at the beginning and end of the day and also at lunchtime. Opportunities for

spontaneous prayer and individual reflection exist both in the classroom and during collective worship.

Prayer takes many forms and may be carefully structured or more informal. Children are encouraged to pray for the needs of others and for special requests. They may themselves ask prayers for particular intentions.

Above all prayer is about communication with God: we both speak and listen to Him. It may take the form of adoration, thanksgiving, repentance or intercession.

Children and staff alike are encouraged to be drawn into prayer and worship through a variety of celebrations. We believe it is important that children enjoy or are inspired by the opportunities for prayer in our school. We want these occasions to be meaningful and memorable for our children. These are enhanced by the use of:

- i) hymns
- ii) reflective music
- iii) silence
- iv) spoken and sung prayers
- v) movement / dance
- vi) scripture
- vii) stories
- viii) atmosphere – candles, icons, focal points
- ix) drama.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour and 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.

A collective act of worship takes place daily in the classroom or in the school hall.

At the end of each topic, each class teacher plans an Act of Worship. This is celebrated in the classroom and usually includes music and pupil and parent participation. It brings together the work carried out in that topic. Older pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning of these celebrations.

Whole school Masses or services are held in the church on Holy Days of Obligation and on special occasions. The children are actively involved with the preparation and celebration of these services.

There are opportunities for older children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The whole school is involved in Christmas concerts, nativity plays and a Christingle service and Easter services, including Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross. Parents, governors and friends are invited to participate in these celebrations.

We recognise the importance of enabling the wider community to worship with us and we promote these opportunities whenever we can.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist is an integral part of the **RE Curriculum**. However, full preparation is undertaken within the parish setting, being supported in school where possible.

Staff and Governors begin all meetings with a prayer in preparation for the meeting.

Parents play an invaluable role in leading their children in prayer. They are informed of the class prayers for their child and are invited to celebrate Mass and assemblies when their child is involved.

PRAYER AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

Also refer to the Pupil Prayer Book which sets out our progression in traditional prayer.