With work We care We Pray We share

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Withnell
We work, We care, We Pray, We share.

Policy for Collective Worship/Prayer and Liturgy

Aims

Collective worship at St Joseph's aims

- to provide daily opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- to encourage participation, response and responsibility for through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, responding to and planning the worship themselves
- to endorse and explore their own beliefs and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to develop a community spirit
- to promote a common ethos and sense of shared values
- to provide opportunities for the children to develop a sense of awe and wonder

This takes place in the whole school ethos of a Catholic school within a Catholic parish and community. The worship and celebration is to be developmental, moving all of us along our faith journey through our shared Gospel.

Principles

The following principles guide our practice within our school.

- Collective worship is inclusive. It is an activity and experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Collective worship should be part of the whole school's life. It can be a launching pad for what goes on elsewhere in the school.
- It provides opportunities to: celebrate, share, reflect, learn how to behave in a social gathering which may include the wider community.
- Collective Worship should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils by using such elements as: hymns, readings, speech, silence, prayer, reflection, music. drama
- Collective Worship tries to evoke those senses and feelings from which worship most naturally arises including: a sense of beauty, a sense of wonder and awe, a feeling of pride, a sense of empathy, a sense of peace, a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves

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Organisation

- We hold daily acts of Collective Worship in our school either as a class, key stage or whole school community.
- In KS2, pupils are encouraged to take an increasing responsibility as they move through the key stage and the year to plan and deliver meaningful Collective Worship, incorporating the principles of Prepare, Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth
- Where appropriate, the correct Liturgical colours are used on the Focus table or during collective worship to help pupils develop a knowledge of these
- In FS and KS1, the teachers provide appropriate Collective Worship, involving the children in preparation and delivery where possible
- We take the themes from the Wednesday Word, Come and See, CAFOD, the Liturgical year, topical events such as World Peace and other festivals.
- The Friday Celebration Assembly reflects the achievements of the children during the week in either behaviour or learning. Within this assembly time is given for reflection and thanksgiving for the previous week. The ethos and expectations of the school are emphasised during this assembly, demonstrating that all children are valued and achievements are recognised,
- Parents, carers, governors and the wider community are invited to the assemblies which promotes the community of the school.
- The hall and each classroom has a focus area for collective worship.
- We report on the Collective Worship theme on our weekly newsletter using a quote from scripture or other thought provoking quote
- We send the Wednesday Word out from school each week to reach out to families, in particular those who would not otherwise hear the word of God

Collective worship in our Catholic school, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment in other Christians and beyond to other world religions, is Catholic in character, reflecting the tradition of our church which will have Christ at its heart.

Our school takes a full and active part in the Liturgical life of our parish and we have regular school masses and celebrations appropriate to the Liturgical Year of our church.

The policy is mindful of all the other Governors' Policies and will contribute to a balanced curriculum, the Mission Statement and the Catholic ethos of our school. The Governors fully recognise the contribution of parents and our parish community within a process of mutually responsible partnership.

Reviewed Sept 2024