

Archdiocese of Westminster

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Hertford**



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**September 2025  
Review November 2026**

Ite ad Joseph

### **Mission statement**

**Together we grow in God's love, learning to be the best we can be.**

The purpose of St Joseph's School is to live, love and learn in a Catholic Christian environment where we:

- Respect and accept each other;
- Strive for excellence and delight in effort;
- Build a community based on tolerance and peace;
- Support each individual to fulfil their potential;
- Are open to the diversity of the wider world;
- Have high expectations of ourselves and others.

### **Organisation**

Worship within school occurs on a daily basis. An act of collective worship takes place each, either through whole school or Key Stage assemblies, or within individual classrooms. The worship focus reflects the Liturgical calendar and follows the Gather, Word, Response, Mission format. It should be appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of those participating.

Staff meetings and briefing sessions begin with a prayerful reflection to remind staff of their role and purpose as evangelists within the school community.

The Chapel is open during the day at all times for pupils and staff to visit individually or in groups.

Each classroom contains a prayer table which acts as a stimulus for prayer. All prayer tables reflect the Liturgical season.

Pupils and staff are encouraged to participate in different forms of prayer.

In addition to whole school and class worship opportunities, a weekly whole school Musical Worship session takes place to enable children and staff to pray through song. All classes timetable for daily meditation, an opportunity for quiet reflection, with an expectation that children will develop their ability to pray in stillness for increasing periods of time.

### **Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is planned following a structure which references Liturgical seasons and the Religious Education curriculum. Whole school Gospel Assembly reflects on the Sunday Gospel and Key Stage collective worship sessions are planned around the Wednesday Word.

Daily classroom based worship sessions is planned following the Westminster Diocese collective worship toolkit. Collective worship is planned by the children supported by an adult dependent on their age. Each collective worship follows the same format:

- Gather
- Word
- Respond
- Mission

Scripture, music and quiet prayer are an integral part of this.

In addition, Children will be taught to recite a range of prayers from heart, to enable them to pray together from memory. These will include traditional prayers, mass responses and prayers from the liturgy for special feasts.

Regular class liturgies and whole school masses present opportunities for each year group to lead others in worship, including parents and family, with the support of the Chaplaincy Team and members of staff.

Members of the Chaplaincy Team also plan prayer groups open to pupils and staff. These include Rosary groups during May and October.

### **Parent and Parish Links**

The Catholic ethos of St. Joseph's is rooted in the values of a Christ centred life. To ensure we live out these beliefs, we support children in developing an understanding of their role as Catholics within a wider faith community.

We recognise that our parents are the primary educators of their children.

We seek to promote an open and genuine partnership with parents and carers through the following:

- Welcoming parents of incoming pupils and familiarising them with the school's mission
- Encouraging the attendance and participation of family members in acts of worship, celebrations and masses

As a Catholic school, St. Joseph's has a vital role within the parish. We maintain strong links with the parish and wider community through the following:

- Inviting parishioners to masses and worship celebrations
- Inter-school support within the Lea Valley Deanery
- Exploration of world faiths, their beliefs and practices
- Fundraising for local diocesan, national and international charitable organisations

Martin Maloney

R.E. Leader

September 2020

Policy Review Date: September 2021