



# ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

READING • BERKSHIRE

## Collective Worship Policy

This policy relates to all sections of St Joseph's College, including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

### Introduction

Worship in this College is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of College life and central to the Catholic tradition.

### Aims

The aims of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for pupils and staff, and visitors, to take part in Collective Worship and encounter God
- to enable pupils to develop their own spirituality, based on an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith
- to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to teach pupils how to worship
- to enable pupils to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus and His teachings

### Collective Worship

Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, 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. Worship is at the heart of St Joseph's College.

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be whole-school, house, section, department, class or tutor group assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and pupils understand that this is a special period of calm reflection. We ask all to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayers and hymns.

In keeping with the ethos of our College, our collective worship is Christian, based on the Bible teachings and the traditions of the Catholic Church. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the College.

Our aim is for our Collective Worship to be prayerful and relevant and as much a part of the day as any other college activity. It takes various forms, e.g. structured services, Lectio Divina, directed reflection (from our own resources or from visiting speakers) plays/assemblies, songs of praise etc. and pupil participation and preparation is greatly encouraged and implemented. Each tutor group/class organises and presents an assembly during the course of the year.

The liturgical year gives our Collective Worship its framework while the needs and events of our worlds of family, school, national and international society, make up its content.



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## **Vision and ethos**

As a Catholic school our educational vision and ethos is:

- **Christ centred**

We recognize the dignity of the human person and the command of Christ to love and care for each other. We aim to build up self-esteem among individuals and create a community marked by caring and belonging that leads to personal growth and formation.

- **Faith enlightened**

The Catholic faith is at the heart of the College life and is integral to its liturgies, rituals, symbolism and prayer areas.

- **Shows concern for the poor**

It seeks to create compassion as the driving force in the search for justice for those at the margins of the community. Pupils should be educated to question the status quo and to be active for social change and the promotion of equal opportunities.

- **Builds communities**

To show social responsibility for the world we inhabit. It should work towards creating a world where everyone can live lives of dignity and decency with respect for life. The College is a community where parents, staff and pupils share a common vision as a worshipping community of warmth and love.

- **Pursues excellence**

St Joseph's College strives to enable every pupil to achieve their potential. It is committed to high quality teaching and learning and to building a community of reflective learners working to the highest standards. Respect is at the heart of the College community. There is a commitment to looking forward and meeting life's challenges and opportunities with confidence.

## **Organisation and Conduct of Collective Worship**

The overall responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headmaster and the Deputy Head Prep in consultation with the Governors.

- The Heads leads the staff in prayer at the beginning of staff briefings
- Whole school assemblies always have a moral/spiritual theme
- Year and House Assemblies are led by staff and pupils on a rota basis
- Masses held throughout the school year include the Mass for Opening of Studies, St Joseph's Day Mass, Mass for the Close of Studies, Leavers' Masses for Years 6 and 13
- Special services are held throughout Advent and Lent to mark these special periods in the Liturgical year, e.g. Ash Wednesday.
- Major celebrations are held at Christmas and Easter. Other Church Feast Days are celebrated through Masses or special services.
- Celebrating other liturgies such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, Pentecost, Feast Days, Memorial Masses and May Procession
- Members of the College community regularly support and attend Collective Worship events locally and within the Diocese. These include the Teachers' Mass for Reading Catholic Cluster Schools and the Good Shepherd Mass in Portsmouth



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Parents, governors, Sisters and friends are invited to attend Special Masses, Celebrations and in the Prep School Year Group assemblies. We encourage attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the College and the homes working together in support of the pupils' spirituality and achievements.