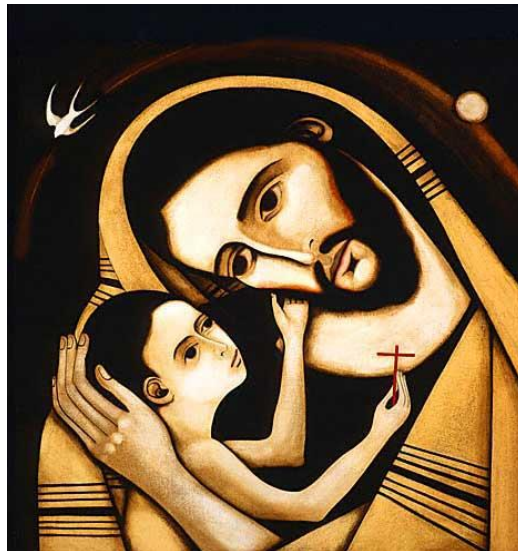




# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clydach



## Collective Worship Policy

Due Date of Review: July 2021

Signature:

## **School Mission Statement**

**‘Together in Christ – Living, Learning and Growing.’**

**‘ Courtesy and consideration to others at all times ’**

### **Inclusion**

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally. All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum, regardless of race, gender and disability. Within this subject area, the SMT and all the staff endeavour to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur. This policy follows the guidelines and practices that are stated and outlined in St Joseph’s Equality Scheme.

### **Equal opportunities.**

We believe that all children should be able to experience a range of Collective Worship activities irrespective of age, gender or ability.

### **Nature of collective Worship.**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.

### **Legal Requirements.**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups e.g. Foundation stage KS1, or KS2). 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 under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our school.**

We endorse 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

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

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

## **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 encourage participation and response
- 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 build a firm foundation for liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes and values
- To participate fully
- To take time out, to wonder at, to come to terms with and to give worth to
- To teach and guide children how to worship

Worship is at the very heart of our school community and the nature of this worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

## **Principles.**

All acts of worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of school and its catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church. In order to this, celebrations will:
- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. Separate Collective Worships are held for Foundation Phase and KS2. These are normally led by members of staff. They are held in the hall.

We conduct Collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that Collective Worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. We encourage the children to be quiet and thoughtful and encourage them to listen, reflect and meditate upon the teachings and the signs and symbols which are used to encourage their full participation in the prayers, readings, stories songs and hymns which they will hear. Children will be encouraged and guided to understand and acknowledge the purpose of gathering, listening and responding, and take forward the mission of the church.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the catholic faith; we acknowledge and reflect upon the liturgical calendar and feast days. Some Collective Worship reflects and builds upon the Come and See topics being currently studied. Parents are informed through the termly newsletters on the nature of worship and are encouraged to follow up and discuss at home with their children.

Child Protection - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)  
is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos.



As a rights- respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships – Linked to Articles 3, 16, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 34, 36, 39 (CRC)

