



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

At St Joseph's we share a vision that together we are the architects of the future, building lives on the firm foundations of the gospel.

Inspired by Christian values we aim to provide love and security within a curriculum designed to meet the complex needs of all individuals, in order to prepare them to take their place in the ever changing world of today and tomorrow.

The values and language of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are central to our ethos.

General Assemblies

All assemblies pay witness to the school as a worshipping community. Every member of the school community should take part because it is important to show the children that assemblies are seen as a valuable shared experience, where everyone is developing their relationship with God.

Each assembly will consist of both silent and communal prayer, such as:-

The Sign of the Cross
Morning Offering
Time for reflection/ Private prayer
Hail Mary
Our Father
Prayer to St Joseph
The Sign of the Cross.

Each assembly must have a theme either reflecting the readings from the previous Sunday's mass, the liturgical year or an issue or event affecting the whole school community.

Whenever possible, assemblies, should :

- be inter-active, providing the children with the opportunity to share their prayers, answer questions and offer hypotheses.
- provide opportunities for children to rehearse the responses to the mass, whenever appropriate in either word/song.
- provide starting points that can be explored at an appropriate level back in the classroom.

Learning to love, loving to learn.



Expectations of behaviour

All children should be encouraged to:

- sit quietly
- listen attentively
- participate.

Teachers should establish the expectations of behaviour and reinforce appropriate behaviours. They should act as role models for the children at all times.

Assembly time should be respected as:

- an act of collective worship
- witness to our catholic identity
- the school as a worshiping community
- an opportunity for each individual member of our catholic community to develop their relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Assembly time provides the opportunity for both evangelisation and catechises to occur, thus helping every member of the school community on their faith journey.

Class Assemblies

Each class is expected to prepare and present a class assembly once a term, for the rest of the school and parents.

Dates for the assembly are chosen at the beginning each term. Parents are given the dates as soon as they are available, to enable them to make arrangements to attend.

All assemblies are acts of collective worship. They should all have a religious focus, reflecting either the appropriate "The Way, The Truth and The Light" topic or the Liturgical Year and whenever possible should make links with other faiths. The assembly should begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Assemblies should include a variety of forms of expression:- dance, drama, choral speaking, poetry, prayers and songs/hymns.

All children should be given the opportunity to participate in the assembly and should be given an equal chance to have either a big/small part at some time during the year.

Whenever possible encourage the children to learn their readings /part by heart and to speak out. Volume is important, as if the children cannot be heard the message of the assembly is lost.

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Music should be played for the children to enter and leave the hall. The music chosen should set the scene for the assembly and should reinforce the expectations of behaviour. Always hand a copy of your assembly plan to the R.E. Co-ordinator for their resource file.

The message of the assembly should always be religious and celebrate R.E. across the curriculum. Prayer should be an integral part of the assembly and not a bolt on.

POLICY REVIEW TERM: BIENNIAL

Policy reviewed: June 2017

Next review: June 2019