

St John's School

&

Sixth Form College

“A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values”

Policy on Collective Worship



Introduction

The ethos and focus of our spiritual life is encapsulated in our mission statement;

“We value each person as uniquely created in the image and likeness of God. We support each person in her/his faith journey by creating opportunities to reflect on the world around us and our role within it. We commit ourselves to ensure that the Gospel values of peace, justice, equality, and respect for life find expression through our actions. Therefore, we will create a stimulating learning environment through a curriculum which responds to the interests and needs of learners, making effective use of new technologies. We will respect and support one another, embracing diversity and celebrating each other’s talents and success. We will create a safe and healthy community which is attentive to the needs of all.”

Living our Faith

St John’s is an “A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values”. We aim to serve others, nurture faith and prepare our students for their lives ahead.

As a Catholic community, we provide many opportunities for students and staff to become involved with the spiritual life of the school and the wider community. The Gospel Values of Christ define not only what we teach but also the way we lead by example and foster relationships with others. The Catholic ethos of the school enables every member of our community to grow fully and to know their own unique value and worth, supporting them on their spiritual journey.

Collective Worship

Worship in a Catholic School is central to its character and is fundamental to providing a sound basis for Christianity to flourish.

It is the responsibility of every member of staff supported by the chaplain and the chaplaincy team to provide:

- Quality opportunities for worship
- Opportunities for effective participation by all students and staff

We acknowledge that our community is made up of staff and students from:

- Committed and nominal Catholic homes
- Families committed to other Christian denominations
- Other faiths outside the Christian Church
- Families that practice no particular religious denomination or faith

As a 'Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values', we have the task of

- Providing all our community with an insight and appreciation of the religious and spiritual dimension of life
- Following the teaching of the Catholic Church that each person should be allowed to act according to her or his own conscience.

All of these factors are taken into consideration when planning any act of worship in the liturgical life of the school.

Through such opportunities to worship, our mission is to:

- Develop and share in the spiritual and moral formation of our students and staff
- Is part of a Christian community joined in friendship, support and prayer

Aims

We aim to:

- Present all students and staff with the tradition, beliefs and sacramental life of the Catholic faith in an appropriate manner.

- To ensure those beliefs are related to life experiences
- Provide the culture and stimulus for reflection, prayer and worship
- Support all students and staff in the exploration of their own personal journeys of faith

To this end we aim to provide a variety of opportunities for worship.

These encourage all of us to:

- Be inspired by Gospel values to serve each other generously
- Be supportive in friendship
- Be loving and loyal towards our families and carers
- Be faithful to God
- Use our talents and gifts to the full

Such worship contributes to social transformation and to spiritual development. It must instil a sense of self-value within individuals as being part of God's creation.

Framework for Worship

As a ' Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values' we provide a wide variety of opportunities for all to explore their spirituality; witness to their faith and to celebrate and support each other as a community developing qualities of:

- reverence
- reflection
- interpretation
- contemplation and meditation
- awe and wonder
- empathy

We aim to provide quality opportunities for collective worship so that members of our school community are able:

- to develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- to examine and reflect upon their our own individual faith journeys;
- to grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;

- to grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

These include

- Collective worship on a daily basis in year group assemblies or in tutorial time. Tutors are asked to facilitate and lead this as part of the PREP programme
- Class masses involving the class, chaplain, RE teacher and pastoral team
- Celebration masses for Years 11 and 13; Year 7 Welcome Celebration; Year group masses and masses for significant occasions
- An annual Community Mass bringing together our staff with those from our family of Catholic feeder schools
- All meetings of staff beginning with a prayer/reflection
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Seasonal liturgies for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter
- Residential retreats and day retreats for Year groups and staff
- Support for charities within a spiritual context. E.g. CAFOD, Lourdes, Peru Mission
- School pilgrimages to Lourdes
- Reflections during the Annual Sixth Form visit to Peru
- Other events supported organised by the Chaplaincy Team such as the Diocesan Summer Festival, the Source and Flame events.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Chaplain

- To devise strategies for all staff and students to enrich their experience of collective worship.
- To support tutors with collective worship
- To liaise with and support parents/carers of students with faith matters
- To lead, monitor and evaluate the provision of the SEF 48 and to set targets as a result.

- To liaise closely with the RE department
- To be a visible presence in the school and be accessible for students and staff.
- To liaise with Primary schools and other agencies to support transition to Year 7.

Role of the Tutor

- To support the Catholic ethos of the school, treating all students and colleagues with respect.
- To facilitate tutor group reflections as part of the PREP process (see appendix)
- To value each member of the tutor group and inspire student leadership
- To prepare and support tutor group assemblies for the whole year group

The role of Heads of Department and Heads of Year

To support and promote our Catholic ethos within their departments and Year Teams.

- Pastoral Leaders should give witness to our Catholic ethos through their dealings with students, staff, parents/carers and outside agencies.
- Pastoral Leaders lead, support and monitor their tutor teams to ensure that quality collective worship provision is being experienced by students.
- Pastoral Leaders, working with their tutors, should ensure that each tutor group leads either a year assembly or a tutor group reflection as required
- Pastoral Leaders work closely with the Chaplaincy team to support students and staff.

Leadership Team

- To provide support for the Chaplain, Chaplaincy Team and all other staff to ensuring that the school supports the spiritual development of students and staff and the school plays a full role in the diocese.
- To review the collective worship policy every 2 years and contribute to the SEF 48

The Governing Body

- To ensure the Chaplain and the Chaplaincy team are effective in their work
- To liaise with the Head teacher, Chaplain and other appropriate staff to ensure that collective worship is properly developed within the school
- Identify a link governor for Collective Worship and the Catholic life of the school.
- The link governors are : Fr Tindall, Mary Wood, Mike Weetman, Angela Smith
- The Leadership link for Chaplaincy is Julie Mackenley

Devised 2012

Reviewed & Updated 2013

To be reviewed January 2017