



St Joseph's

Roman Catholic High School
& Sports College

Collective Worship Policy

Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.

Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.

We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith.

Approved by Governors: 19th March 2015

Date for Review: March 2018

Signed Chair of Governors: W. Charnley

Signed Headteacher: R.Woods

Governors Committee: Mission & Ethos

Gospel Values

The term 'Gospel values' is commonly used in Catholic schools and other Catholic institutions; however, unless the term is unpacked and a common understanding formed of what true Gospel values are, there is a danger that what should be an objective Christian foundation, will itself become a random list of subjective values.

Whilst other 'values' may be found within the four Gospels and New Testament writings, it is the Beatitudes which: *"...depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity"*. Gospel values cannot therefore be values chosen subjectively from the vast corpus of the Old and New Testaments but are objective values revealed to us through Christ's proclamation. Such objective values are to be found rooted in the Beatitudes, the proclamation of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes also *"...reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts"* and as such are the objective 'values' given by Christ himself.

Whilst not definitive, those Gospel values based on the Beatitudes which underpin this policy include:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"

Values: **Truth & Justice**

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"

Values: **Purity & Holiness**

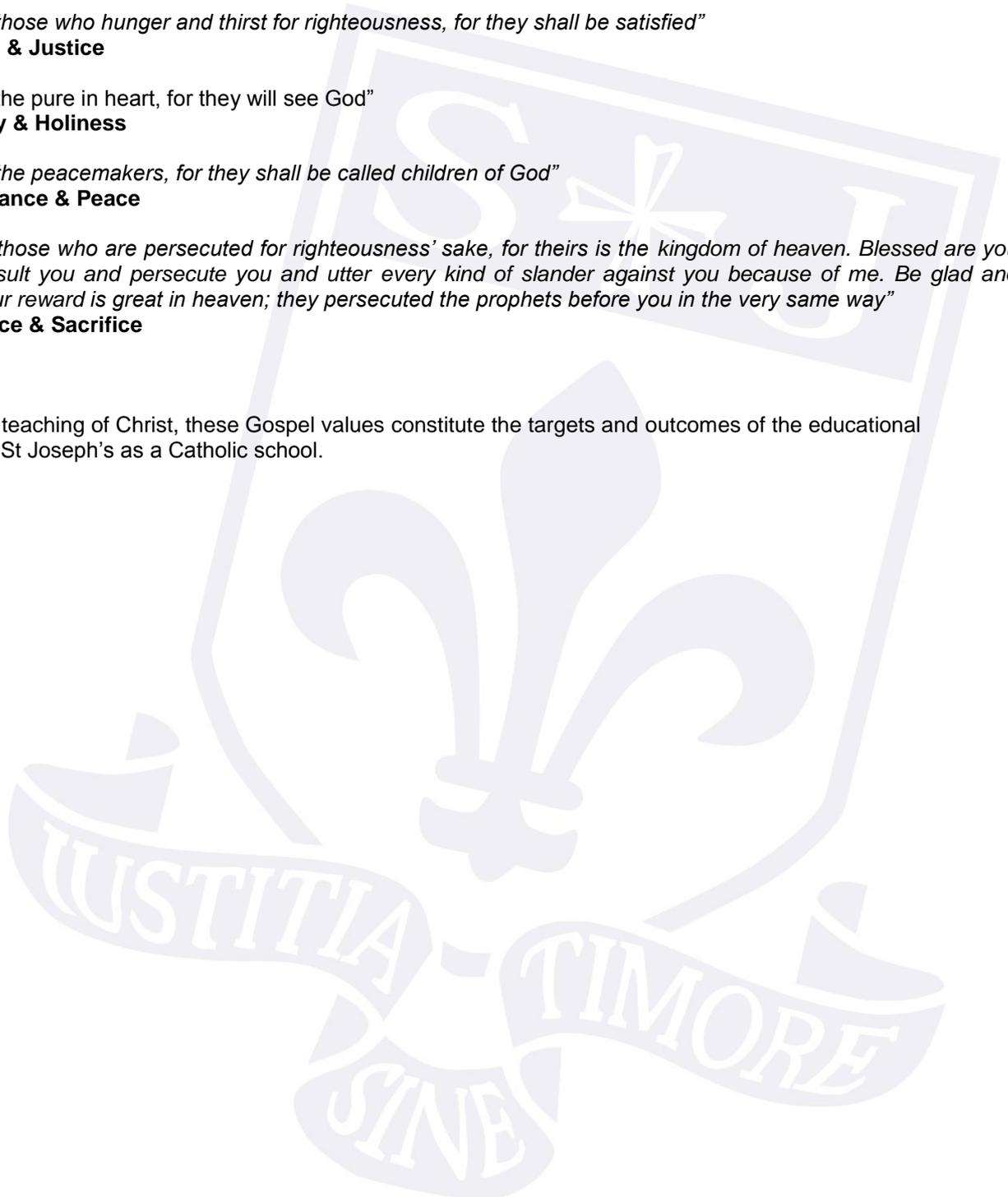
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"

Values: **Tolerance & Peace**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way"

Values: **Service & Sacrifice**

Rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel values constitute the targets and outcomes of the educational enterprise for St Joseph's as a Catholic school.



The Purpose of Collective Worship

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

- facilitate the deepening of faith, spiritual development and formation.
- support pupils and staff in pursuing and developing their relationship with God.
- help build a caring and supportive community within the school built on the Christian values of love and respect for all.
- promote the beauty and uniqueness of each person as a child of God.
- enrich the religious experience of pupils and staff.
- offer moments for all to stop, think and pray.
- introduce a variety of formal and informal prayer settings.
- celebrate special moments of school life and the Church year.
- provide opportunities for all to be aware of God's Spirit at work today and the importance of discipleship in our modern world.
- help students live out the school motto "Be Just and Fear Not".
- provide opportunities for the school community to offer thanksgiving and praise.

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 the Church as the Body of Christ on earth.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

"...the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the fount from which all her powers flow" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10).

"Are we ready to commit our entire self – intellect and will, mind and heart – to God? Do we accept the truth Christ reveals? Is the faith tangible in our universities and schools? Is it given fervent expression liturgically, sacramentally, through prayer, acts of charity, a concern for justice and respect for God's creation? Only in this way do we really bear witness to the meaning of who we are and what we uphold" (Pope Benedict XVI, Conference Hall of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., 17th April 2008).

"Worship is a corporate activity and a feature of most religions. It is a community celebration of what we believe about God and our relationship to God and each other." (Jim Gallagher 'Our Schools and Our Faith')

Worship and prayer has a central place in the life of the school community. The Head of R.E and the Head of Performing Arts are responsible for whole school liturgies.

The Organisation of Collective Worship at St Joseph's

Daily Worship

A daily act of worship takes place either during morning registration 'Sacred Space'; in form classes or in a Year Group assembly.

Assemblies should always retain their primary principle as a time of Collective Worship. They should never be simply used as times to give messages, deliver sanctions or reinforce behaviour issues, leaving prayer and reflection as a secondary 'after-thought'.

Guidelines and resources are provided for all staff. Themes are suggested. Classes are encouraged to be creative in the choice of theme and form of presentation including use of Music and IT skills. Regular whole school assemblies take place led by Headteacher and members of SLT.

Sacramental Provision

The celebration of Mass is encouraged and participated in as often as Clergy availability allows. A staff mass is held at the beginning of each year and Masses of welcome are celebrated for all year groups at the beginning of the academic year. Masses are held on Holy days of obligation. E.g. All Saints Day.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in line with the availability of Clergy during seasonal reconciliation services during Advent and Lent.

Our Liturgical Calendar

Special Services and assemblies for the whole school take place for Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. Headteacher, Assistant Heads and Managers of Learning lead assemblies, sometimes with the participation of pupils. Dance, Drama, Film clips are all used to celebrate the Glory of God.

During Advent and Lent, reconciliation services for all classes take place in the Chapel. Retreats are offered to years 8-11 to Savio House, Bollington and one day retreats will take place for Years 7-9 in school during the 2014-15 academic year.

Pupils use the chapel for private prayer, for example, at times of bereavement and this will be further facilitated by our School pupil Chaplains.

At St Joseph's the provision of collective worship lies with all members of staff, especially the School Leadership Team, Managers of Learning, Form Tutors and the Head of R.E and Performing Arts.

Support for Staff

Supporting our staff to lead high quality collective worship is a responsibility that involves the Head of RE and the Leadership Team. This may take the form of 'generic' support' through Tuesday CPDF sessions for all staff, one to one support, the opportunity to observe good practice, and external CPDF as requested and/or required.

Further Opportunities for Collective Worship:

- ✓ All classrooms have "Sacred Space" displaying a crucifix, form patron and the schools mission statement. A candle is lit during prayer time.
- ✓ Reflections upon the Sunday Liturgical readings are in pupil planners.
- ✓ Resources for prayer are available to all staff.
- ✓ The school chapel is located on the second floor of the main building - this is available and is used for the Stations of the Cross during Lent and the Rosary during May and October.
- ✓ The choir and the Band are encouraged to participate with all assemblies and services.
- ✓ Priests from feeder primaries and the Salesian Fathers at Thornleigh House are very supportive celebrating masses at key times.
- ✓ Pupil Chaplains have been commissioned by the Bishop of Salford. These pupils are developing their role in school.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must 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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. St Anthony's Chapel, "on a special occasion".

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

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

Evaluation

The evaluation of Collective Worship is in its infancy and its development is a key **strand** within the School 5Ws improvement plan. In the future we hope to effectively evaluate our provision through staff, parent & pupil voice, observation and other recording processes alongside external expertise and guidance via the Diocese of Salford and Boscep partners.

This policy will be reviewed by Governors on an annual basis.

