



OUR SCHOOL MOTTO IS:

Growing in Faith and Knowledge

OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph's Preparatory School is a Catholic School, which was founded by the Christian Brothers and is a place where the staff and governors work to bring the Gospel values into all areas of School life and where prayer, worship and liturgy are seen as meaningful experiences.

Each child is encouraged to strive for the highest possible standards of work and behaviour, whilst learning to live as a well-mannered, self-disciplined and tolerant individual both inside and outside the classroom. The children learn to live as happy and caring members of a School community, which values their unique individual talents, and also the needs of others.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School values and nurtures a close partnership with parents and encourages the forming of meaningful links with the wider community. The children are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities in order to develop an interest in sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School up holds fundamental British values and encourages respect for all people.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School recognises its legal duty to work with Local Safeguarding Children's Board acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of abuse.

We recognise that pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and require a secure environment in order to learn effectively.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School's Safeguarding Children Policy follows the guidelines laid down by the City of Stoke on Trent Safeguarding Children's Procedures and "Working Together to Safeguard Children"(2015) and "Keeping Children Safe in Education"(2016) (KCSIE)

Our motto 'Growing in Faith and Knowledge' encapsulates the School's Aims:

- To provide a caring, Christian community, in which individuals can develop fully.
- To strive for excellence in all areas – academic, sporting, musical etc.
- To provide an ethos which brings the Gospel message alive.
- To develop strong community links.

(St. Joseph's Preparatory School has achieved International School Status and is an Eco School.
We are a Dyslexia Friendly School)

St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Collective Worship

Co-ordinator: Mrs S Hutchinson

This Policy was reviewed: September 2017

St Joseph's Preparatory School is a place where we bring the Gospel values into all areas of School life and where prayer, worship and liturgy are seen as meaningful experiences and expressions of our Catholic faith.

St Joseph's Preparatory School aims to provide children with the opportunity to:

- Praise and worship Our Lord.
- Reflect the values of the Gospels.
- Plan their own personal contributions to Collective Worship.
- Respond to and participate in the worship offered.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Celebrate God working within us.
- Understand the need for, and importance of prayer.
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Opportunities for Collective Worship at St. Joseph's Preparatory School follow various formats and are held at different times each day.

Formats include:

1. Daily Collective Worship in each class according to Archdiocesan recommendations.
2. Class prayer time
3. Prayers before lunch in classrooms
4. Prayers after lunch EYFS/Pre Prep in the classroom. Prep on the playground or in class if the weather is inclement.
5. Pre Prep/Prep assembly in the hall
6. EYFS assembly in the Nursery Classroom
7. Pre Prep/Prep Collective Worship and hymn practice in the hall.
8. Whole school assembly – Friday
9. Whole School gathering for Mass, Service or Liturgy
10. First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Celebrations (Mass).
11. Celebrating prayer through music
12. Opportunities to develop staff spirituality.

We invite all members of our community to participate in Collective Worship, regardless of belief, ability or background, and we work hard to make it relevant and rewarding for all.

1. Daily Collective Worship in Class:

Each class gathers together for a period of Collective Worship on days when no whole school Collective Worship is planned. The duration of this gathering depends on the age of the child. A guide for this would be approximately one minute for the age of each child. All classes have a focus area. Children are encouraged to lead and plan as far as possible using a range of resources to encourage reflection, appropriate to their age.

A list of possible themes for each week of the year is available incorporating key religious feasts and themes around virtues and values.

However, children and teachers may wish to include themes from “Learning and Growing as the People of God”, the liturgical year, events within our school and classes, national or world events, or any other appropriate areas.

Collective Worship is planned for and evaluated.

2. Class prayer time.

Children also pray together in class at the end of each day and before and after lunch. Formal prayers or children’s own prayers can be used.

3. EYFS Assembly

EYFS gather in the Nursery classroom each week. Themes follow a similar pattern to that of daily collective worship in class but are selected to cater for a younger age group.

4. Whole School Assembly

The whole school, including staff, gathers in the hall on a Friday afternoon for Collective Worship. This is followed by a celebratory assembly led by the Head teacher. This assembly follows themes of the Church’s liturgical year. It is based on God’s Story or the “Living and Growing as the Children of God” scheme supported by Bible readings, prayers and singing. Special events in the lives of the children and the school are also celebrated. There is a great emphasis on moral development through sharing examples of kindness, consideration and good behavior. Self – esteem and responsibility are promoted. Children share their talents and achievements.

5. Whole School Masses

The whole school, gather for Mass at St Theresa’s church. We mark the celebration of a school event or a Holy Day in the church’s calendar. Each Prep class leads a Mass or Service at least once a year on a rota basis. Parents and carers are invited to these celebrations, whether they are in school or Church.

6. Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme Celebrations

The school seeks to support the parishes the children attend in their work preparing children for Reconciliation and Eucharist.

The whole school celebrates these Sacraments with the children during a special Mass led by Father Taylerson in the Summer term.

7. Celebrating Prayer through Music.

Music makes a powerful contribution to Collective Worship at St Joseph’s Preparatory School through singing, for example during our Harvest and Christingle celebrations in school and Church and our Christmas celebrations, and in Masses/Liturgies. Each class has a

CD of music which can be used in class Collective Worship. The school is developing a small worship band of children willing to take part in worship.

8. Resources

Each class has a focus area which the children organize. All classes have access to whiteboards, internet resources, Good news Bibles, posters, fabrics, candles, and CDs. Each Prep child should have their own hymn book; other hymn books are stored centrally.

9. Staff Spirituality

Staff are invited to participate in “Collective Worship” in order to support and develop their own spirituality. This may be through termly “Come and See for Yourself” reflections, attendance and participation in school Masses and liturgies, archdiocesan training and in spirituality INSET.

Elements of Collective Worship Involve:

- Music
- Prayer
- Words
- Scripture
- Silence
- Symbolic Action
- Suitable Environment
- Ministry
- Gesture

Not every celebration will involve all of the above elements. Some parts will be done by all, others by individuals.

Planning:

Planning sheets for Acts of Collective Worship are available based on the four part structure of:

- Gather
- Listen
- Respond
- Go forth

Planning sheets are available on the sdrive. All staff receive training either through the archdiocese or through staff meetings. Collective Worship is moderated and evaluated.

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. The review will assess its implementation and effectiveness and take into account any recent new guidelines. This policy was devised in consultation with staff and Governors of St. Josephs Preparatory School.