



St Anne's RC Primary

'We Grow Together in God's Love'

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY 2023 **(COLLECTIVE WORSHIP)**

Mission Statement

We grow together as a Catholic Faith Community, as we follow and promote Gospel values in all we do. We grow together in wisdom, as we encourage each child to achieve their full potential, academically, spiritually and socially and in a spirit of confidence. We grow together in respect, friendship and responsibility, as we reach out to those in our wider community.

We Grow Together in God's Love.

Rationale:

'We seek to encourage each child to develop his or her individual abilities: spiritual, academic and social, as fully as possible and in a spirit of confidence.'

Introduction:

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:

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we believe that it is much more than a legal requirement, it is central to the life of our school and is essential in developing the spiritual development. Where parents request it, pupils may be withdrawn from the Prayer and liturgy and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

Aims and objectives for Prayer and liturgy:

Through our prayer and liturgy, we aim to:

- Ensure that each day all pupils and staff have the opportunity to participate in an act of worship and reflection based on our shared Catholic faith and Gospel values.
- Allow our pupils to develop and deepen their own relationships with God.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Allow our pupils the opportunity to reflect upon their own personal beliefs and to respond and celebrate life.
- Ensure that strong links are made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Ensure that our Prayer and liturgy will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- Create a strong moral, reflective and social ethos for worship, enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.

- Help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
- Contribute to our school's community cohesion and will promote children's spiritual, social, intellectual and moral development.
- Allow our children to develop qualities like tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

Our strategies for Prayer and liturgy:

- Pupils will learn some well-known and lesser-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
- Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship dependent upon age and prayer development.
- On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals such as Christmas and Easter in lines with our Catholic/Christian faith.

When Collective Worship will take place:

- Prayers at the beginning and end of the day, take place in each class, every day.
- Prayers of thanks before and after meals.
- Monday – whole school prayer and liturgy in the hall at 9am
- Tuesday and Thursday – prayer and liturgy in classes
- Wednesday – either whole school prayer and liturgy led by St Anne's Ambassadors or music prayer and liturgy at 9am
- Friday – whole school celebration prayer and liturgy led by classes or the SLT at 9am

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, or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening. 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.

Partnerships with Parents:

Liturgies and celebrations and events related to the Catholic Life of our school are shared in school newsletters, on Twitter and Facebook and are published on the school website.

On several occasions during the year, the parents from each class will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school.

Parents of pupils in Sacramental year groups are also invited to Sacramental Meetings. We are also introducing stay and pray session fortnightly to include parents in our Tuesday prayer and liturgy sessions

Planning:

Prayer and liturgy in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the RE Curriculum Directory.

- Plans will be broadly based on each year group's long term planning for liturgies.
- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Roles and Responsibilities:**Governors Role**

It is the Governors' role to agree, monitor and review the policy. Monitoring takes place through;

- Visits to school by Governors with particular responsibilities. Also, annual monitoring visit to classrooms by curriculum committee, focus dependent on SDP priorities.
- Committee Meetings with regular reports to full governing body.
- Headteacher Reports to Governing Body and presentations by subject leaders.

Headteacher's Role

- The Headteacher will take lead responsibility for the development, monitoring and implementation of the policy and reporting to the Governing Body.
- Monitoring will take place through learning walks, discussions with staff and children.

Subject Leaders Role

- With the Head teacher, to share a role in the monitoring and evaluation of this policy throughout the school.

- To encourage other members of staff in their delivery of Collective worship and to give support where appropriate.
- To keep up to date with current good practice and with national changes within Prayer and Liturgy.
- To evaluate and update the Policy and resources on a regular basis.
- To assist the Head teacher and Governors in the development of the School Improvement Plan.
- To feedback to Governors on implementation and impact of Collective Worship.
- To manage a budget to purchase in line with the school's needs.
- To support members of staff in the use of effective planning.
- To maintain a high standard of Prayer and Liturgy in his/her own classroom and ensure that Collective Worship keeps a high profile within the school.

Role of Teachers and Teaching Assistants

- To work alongside subject leaders to implement this policy

Inclusion:

Underpinned by our Catholic belief that all children are unique, precious children of God, we aim that our approach to teaching will meet the needs of all pupils, irrespective of culture, religion, race, gender and ability. We aim for excellent achievement for all children. This policy links with policies for: SEND, Equality and School Aims.

Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by SLT, RE Lead and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.

Next review: Autumn 2025