



Prayer and Worship Policy 2023-2024

Together, as God's family we are learning through love, forgiveness, respect and courage to use our unique gifts, challenging and transforming our world.

INTENT

So that our school is authentically and distinctively Catholic, we are called to witness as 'A Worshipping Community.' We provide rich and varied worship opportunities throughout the year, in small, class based and larger groups. These create a strong sense of community and service to each other. Our inclusive worship helps pupils to grow in confidence in prayer and develop a relationship with God. We use the Word of God as a resource for the nurturing spirituality of the child through quiet meditation, imaginative responses such as drama and role play and group reflection.

We gather together regularly as a whole school to celebrate together and to show the glory and activity of God in our lives. Through this worship we are led to reflect, meditate and pray, which reflects the spirituality of our whole school community. Mass and collective worship is part of every week timetable. Pupils participate in liturgy in a meaningful and enjoyable manner, both in the classroom and in larger settings.

As a school we aim:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

IMPLEMENTATION

Prayer and Worship:

- Daily prayers at the beginning, lunchtime and at the end of each day
- Daily class Collective Worship, with one being an extended Gospel reflection led by each class (this is on a rota throughout the year but is subject to change).
- Weekly class Gospel assemblies on a rota basis (Years 3 to 6 from Autumn Term, Year 1 to 6 from Spring).
- Weekly whole school assemblies led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head.
- School masses at the start and end of each term and on Holydays
- Weekly masses in church on a rota basis (Years 3 to 6).
- Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar, particularly Advent Prayer Services and Passion Plays.

Prayers should be:

- Personal. Children should be allowed to pray on their own and in silence;
- Common, so said within classes, as a school, liturgies;
- Traditional, modern, spontaneous, through songs, drama or liturgies.

All classes contain a focal point for prayer and worship, updated regularly to ensure it is in line with the RE curriculum or the Catholic Calendar. This can be as an R.E. wall display and an area made up of:

- Bibles/prayer books/books
- Candles
- Artefacts
- Children's work

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.¹ (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. These acts of worship are 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. church, "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.

Traditional Prayers:

As a Catholic school we have the responsibility to teach prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition. It is agreed that children should become familiar with or know the following prayers:

Year Groups	Familiar with:	Know:
Early Years	Our Father Hail Mary	Sign of the Cross Morning Prayer Dinner Time Prayer End of Day Prayer
Key Stage 1	Glory Be	Our Father Hail Mary Sign of the Cross Morning Prayer Dinner Time Prayer End of Day Prayer
Lower Key Stage 2	Gospel Responses Confiteor <i>(I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God)</i>	Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be Sign of the Cross Morning Prayer Dinner Time Prayer End of Day Prayer
Upper Key Stage 2	Apostles Creed	Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be Sign of the Cross Morning Prayer Dinner Time Prayer End of Day Prayer Gospel Responses Holy Holy Confiteor

¹ 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 need to 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.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- in floor books

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

EUCHARIST

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to *"The Welcome Table. Planning Masses with Children"* which contains the complete text of the Church's *'Directory for Masses with Children'* as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

In school, therefore, the **'Liturgy of the Word'**, rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- pupil led worship

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- pupil led worship

Monitoring of Progress:

Planning for Prayer and Worship will be recorded on individual Collective Worship planning sheets. Collective Worship opportunities may be relevant to a theme related to the Come and See scheme of work for a particular year group, the Church's liturgical calendar, a spiritual opportunity for reflection, current/global theme (recognising and being sensitive to the diversity of faiths and cultures within classes and as a school) which would aim to broaden the children's understanding and awareness of issues and offer a very reflective experience.

In supporting the children's learning trips are a key feature of developing an enriched curriculum at St. William's, providing children with an awareness of other places of worship.

Within planning there will be reference made to provision that is in place to support children with English as an Additional Language and differentiated accordingly to either outcome or in work set.

Assessment:

Assessment will be carried out as indicated in the Age-Related Standards for Religious Education document. The RE lead will monitor work and delivery of Prayer and Worship. Prayer and Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Assessment will be recorded in line with assessment of all other subjects in school, assessing work over the course of each topic. Pupils will be assessed against the age-related standards for AT1 (Attainment Target 1), AT2 (Attainment Target 2) and, in KS2, AT3 (Attainment Target 3) strands at the end of each topic. The results are stored in the Assessment drive, alongside all other subjects. This means of assessment will help to focus staff in their means of evaluating and reflecting upon the delivery of prayer and worship and how to move forward in trying or sharing different or new methods to assist and facilitate children in their spiritual and moral growth and development.

Provision

- Continued Collective Worship Training throughout the school year during staff CPD and relevant training provided by Salford Diocese. (When relevant courses are updated on the website).
- Training and support for new staff related to planning and provision using the RE scheme of work. This will be done throughout the year, during staff CPD, NQT meetings, Inset Days and by the NQT mentor and coach.
- Weekly planning reviews and monitoring of all teachers planning to ensure consistency across classes.
- Sharing good practise, class teachers to watch good examples of children leading a collective worship session.
- Teachers to provide a variety of creative prayer and collective worship opportunities that are age appropriate and related to the liturgical year.
- Advent prayer services
- Lent and Easter Reflections
- Each class to make an entry into each of the 5 W's books each half term during theme week. This work can be linked to RE work done in class or a world event.
- Encourage the use of more drama and role plays when retelling religious stories, allow children the opportunity to share their plays with other classes.
- Continue to develop the Collective Worship books. Every class needs a book where children can log any activities or reflections taking place in Collective Worship sessions.
- Assessments can be done through a variety of ways such as, drama, role play, art, interviews, discussions as well as the written assessment.

E Turner (RE Lead), July 2023

Reviewed by Governors:

Signed: (Chair of)

Review Date:Summer Term 2024....