

# Our Lady's RC Primary School



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Last reviewed by Staff	Autumn 2023
Last reviewed by Governors	September 2023
Person Responsible	RE Co-ordinator and Headteacher
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2024

**Signed:** *E Wright* (RE Leader)

**Date:** 11.9.2023

**Signed:** *[Signature]* (Headteacher)

**Date:** 11.9.2023

**Signed:** *G. M. Massingham* (Chair/Governor)

**Date:** 11.9.2023

## Our Core Values & Mission

During Summer 2023 workshops, we revisited both our Mission Statement and Core Values. This involved everyone in discussion, reflection and prayer about the Values and Mission of our Catholic school. There was a calling to all to re-commit to our purpose and to work together to understand our roles and responsibilities as part of Our Lady's



## Our Mission Statement is:



*"Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus"*

*Our Mission is represented by this design. As with the statement itself, the logo was developed by all stakeholders, with the children in particular providing the symbolic ideas of **growth – the tree, love – the hearts** and **Christ – the Cross***

## The Core Values that provide the foundation for that Mission are:

'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord' Proverbs' 19:17 **Kind**

'Love God and love people' Matthew 22:36-40 **Loving**

'You can always turn to the Lord when times are tough' Psalms 9:9-10 **Safe**

'Forgive and you will be forgiven' Luke 6:37 **Forgiving**

'I am the way, the truth, the life' John 14:6 **Honest**

'Rejoice always' Thessalonians 5-16 **Positive**

'Lord, your God shall you worship and him alone shall you serve' Matthew 4:1-11 **Respect**

'Grow in the grace and knowledge of Saviour Jesus Christ' 2 Peter 3-18 **Nurturing**

## Nurture

The School's six nurturing principles sum up our practice and theory. They underpin the context, organisation and curriculum.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. the importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language as a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives

## **The nature of Collective Worship.**

Collective worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'<sup>1</sup>

*(Please see RE Curriculum Policy also for further information).*

## **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies 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.

## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

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.

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.

At Our Lady's we aim to provide opportunities for prayer and worship, which challenge and enrich the religious experience of both pupils and staff. Such opportunities include Masses in school, parish celebrations and collective worship, as well as individual prayer and reflection.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- 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.'

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church<sup>2</sup>. In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
  - be short and appropriately paced
  - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

## **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, the RE scheme, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupil skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To allow pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To explore our own beliefs
- To develop community cohesion – home, school and parish.

Through a range of opportunities for prayer and worship we will

- Encourage participation and response
- Promote common ethos and shared values
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Challenge and enrich the religious experiences of staff and pupils
- Encourage pupils' leadership and participation in class and whole school experiences of prayer and worship

- Promote and celebrate the partnership with home and parish e.g. through sacramental celebrations, parish celebrations, inviting parents to special assemblies etc.
- Provide opportunities for quiet reflection during collective worship or class prayer.

## **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded in children's RE books, as well as every class floor book which is taken on a journey with them throughout school. In addition, photographs, recordings and assemblies are tweeted and gathered on class website pages. Parishioners are invited to worship also throughout the year. The mass calendar is planned with Fr Kevin, our parish priest, Headteacher, RE subject lead and lay chaplain-Phil Livesey.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Subject leader to action development plan with specific focus for worship monitoring and evaluation in the form of observations, pupil voice, staff voice and learning walks. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform CSED.

## **Resources**

Every class displays a worship area which changes regularly in succession with the liturgical calendar and weekly worships. Nurturing Human Wholeness, Ten:Ten assemblies, Come and See and Caritas in Action support our worship planning and delivery. Worship is led online, by adults, children or faith teams.

The content, form and organisation of Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady's is based on various resources, including Ten:Ten Life to the Full, Caritas in Action, Nurturing Human Wholeness and CAFOD. The purpose of these resources is to:

- Make the Catholic values of the school explicit
- Promote a positive and caring Christian ethos that is understood and communicated to everyone
- Promote emotional literacy and contribute towards community cohesion and the common good

Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady's ensures that the children are given opportunities to:

- Hear the Christian story and encounter the person of Jesus.
- Understand their uniqueness as made in the image and likeness of God.
- Experience a sense of belonging within a range of communities, including the local Eucharistic community.
- Know, appreciate and understand the importance of social justice.
- Know that our limitations are also opportunities for growth.
- Understand the connection (wisdom) between knowledge and living.
- Know that everything has the opportunity to reveal God's presence to us i.e. to see the divine in the ordinary.
- Forgive and be forgiven, to reconcile and be reconciled.
- Experience fun, humour, imagination, creativity, play and excitement in life.

The Caritas in Action Framework from Salford Diocese is central to our worship also. This Catholic Social Teaching themes are:

- Dignity of the Human Person
- Family and Community
- Solidarity and the Common Good

- Dignity of Work
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Stewardship

Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God has a plan for creation, a plan to build his kingdom of peace, love and justice.

It holds that God has a special plan for every single one of us, whoever we are. Our part in this plan isn't just limited to things 'spiritual', or times when we do "religious things." It involves every aspect of our lives, from the things we pray about, to how we live as a responsible global citizen. Caritas in Action provides a unique cross-curriculum and multi key stage approach for embedding the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in our school.

### **The learning environment**

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment' <sup>3</sup>

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics and Caritas in Action focus statements. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Collective Worship is organised in the classroom, in the hall, outdoors, or in a quiet area. It may include a variety of activities such as prayer, song, story, speech, silence and stillness, reading from varied sources, free expression, music, drama etc. World faiths are included when appropriate. All children must attend collective worship unless they are withdrawn by their parents. Our GIFT Team (Growing in Faith Together) is made up of UKS2 children who lead worship and prayer across the whole school, in conjunction with specific points in the liturgical calendar.

### **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 '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.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

The RE curriculum contributes to the school's life of prayer and worship, though it does not substitute for it. Topics covered in curriculum religious education are echoed in Collective Worship, thus enabling the RE curriculum to deepen the children's understanding and appreciation of prayer and worship. On occasion the children will bring their work in curriculum religious education to a conclusion in a celebration. Sometimes pupils will be encouraged to share some of their religious education class work with others in prayer and worship, perhaps incorporating song, artwork, poetry, story or drama making such a celebration a real experience of prayer and worship, as well as legitimate curriculum religious education.