

# St Mary's and St Vincent's Catholic Primary Schools

## Worship Policy

### **Mission Statement**

*Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus.*

### **Rationale**

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 Nature of Collective Worship**

It is the policy of the school to help children grow in their Faith, which is based on the teaching and traditions of the Catholic Church. We aim to encourage children to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, this is important for all children in our care, regardless of whether they are practising Catholics or not.

### **Aims**

Collective Worship in St Mary's and St Vincent's Catholic Primary Schools aims to provide opportunities for all children and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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.'

### **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered for all children. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all children, 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.

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 Head Teacher.

## **Leading Worship**

As the spiritual leaders of the school the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teachers plan and lead collective worship.

Class teachers lead their class worship.

Children are taught and encouraged to plan and lead collective worship appropriate to their age.

## **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship at St Mary's and St Vincent's Catholic Primary Schools is practised in various ways, from a whole school act of Worship to classroom prayers, with regular celebrations of the Eucharist.

Our pattern of Acts of Worship is as follows: -

### **Monday**

Whole school Gospel Assembly planned by the RE leader/Deputy Head Teacher. The Gospel reading from the previous Sunday is read and discussed. Children are sent forth with a mission.

### **Tuesday**

Prayer and Praise including Liturgical preparation. (Hymn practice)

### **Wednesday**

SMPS - Class Worship

SVPS - Assembly Led by Headteacher or Class Assembly. This follows set themes, for example, studying parables or miracles, Feast Days, Stations of the Cross, current events.

### **Thursday**

SMPS - Assembly Led by Headteacher or Class Assembly. This follows set themes, for example, studying parables or miracles, Feast Days, Stations of the Cross, current events.

SVPS - Class Worship

**Friday** - Whole school worship, led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teachers. Worship includes a celebration of children's achievements from that week, e.g. values certificates, reading certificates, birthdays and any out of school achievements. This includes prayer, reflection, scripture, hymn and mission.

We celebrate Mass as a whole school at the beginning and end of each school year, on our Schools Feast Days and other special celebrations.

Prayers are said before lunch and at the end of the school day in each classroom on a daily basis. The Morning Prayer is incorporated into whole school, class and Key Stage Worship.

## **Planning and Content of Worship**

Collective worship is planned following the structure of the liturgical seasons of the Church's year, the Come and See programme, feast days and other significant dates eg. School feast day, harvest, family fast day.

A variety of prayer styles are used appropriate to the age, stage of development and the occasion.

Parents and parishioners are invited to participate in class assemblies, Friday Worship and Masses.

## **Prayer**

Children have a natural aptitude for prayer. They are open to God. Helping children to pray is a fostering of a relationship with God. We support children on their journey in faith. Children are given

experience of personal and communal prayer by being encouraged to speak in their own way to God and by being introduced gradually to formal words for prayer at the appropriate level.

Throughout the Come and See programme prayer builds upon the children's natural spontaneous expressions of joy, wonder, awe, concern, thanks, sorrow, sadness, anger, fear and disappointment evoked through their growing awareness of themselves, others and the world around them. We are aware of children's need for expression through speech, song, movement, art, writing and silence. We are aware of the importance of giving the children a focus for prayer in each classroom, and wherever acts of worship are held.

### **Prayer Tables**

Prayer tables are clearly visible and accessible within each classroom. Liturgical colours are used for any cloth or drape, e.g. purple during Advent and Lent, white / gold at Christmas, white / gold at Easter, red at Pentecost and green for ordinary time. Prayer tables often include something which reflects the topic e.g. baptismal candle, advent wreath, palm cross during Lent and / or other appropriate objects eg. a cross, crucifix or statue. They always contain a candle and a bible or religious storybook, open at a relevant page.

### **EYFS / Foundation Stage / Key Stage One**

The following prayers are introduced to, and learnt by the children during this time: -

The sign of the cross

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Morning and night prayers. (Refer to RE Staff handbook for prayers in your setting)

Grace before meals. (Refer to RE Staff handbook for prayers used in your setting)

Simple examination of conscience.

Simple act of contrition.

Simple responses such as: - The Lord be with you, And with your spirit, Lord in your Mercy, Hear our prayer, A reading from the Gospel of St John, Glory to you O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord, Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you, And with your spirit. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **Key Stage Two**

The children learn the above prayers, plus: -

Eternal rest

Act of contrition

Responses to be said during Mass: -

Introduction

The Penitential rite

Lord have mercy

I confess

The Gloria

The Liturgy of the Word (including response after each reading and before the Gospel.)

Apostle's creed.

Bidding prayer response (as above)

Offertory responses – Blessed be God forever, May the Lord accept...

Eucharistic prayer

Holy, holy

Acclamation of Faith

Lamb of God

Response before Communion (if receiving)  
Rite of dismissal.

### **Staff Prayer**

Staff pray together before SLT meetings, staff meetings and briefings. Governors pray together before their meetings. Thus offering the whole enterprise into the hands of God. Staff Prayer Group is the First Monday of each month, all members are staff are welcome.

### **School as a worshipping community**

Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. As stated, we have daily opportunities for Acts of Worship in the school. These are planned to include special feasts and reflect the liturgical year. We celebrate the Eucharist regularly, and each class prays together in the morning, before / after meals, and at the end of the school day. Children are given time and space to thank God for their day, to reflect on it and to offer up any intercessions of their own, particularly during class based worship.

### **Recording**

Collective worship is recorded in RE Leader/Deputy Head's Subject Folder.

### **Monitoring**

Worship is monitored by the Chaplain / RE Subject Leader / Head Teacher using the worship monitoring form.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Chaplain / RE Subject Leader / Head Teacher. Both Staff and Governors have agreed this policy. It is reviewed by the Staff and Governors every two years.

Reviewed Lent 2023

To be reviewed Lent 2025