

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



SPIRITUALITY, PRAYER AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING IN FAITH

*Our vision at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School
and all we do, and aspire to be,
is centred on the love, life and teaching of Jesus,
and rooted in the faith of the Catholic Church.*

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

*Our aim is to build a loving, happy, safe and welcoming school where
everyone has the opportunity and support to recognise, celebrate and
develop
their God given gifts and talents, learning in a creative and friendly school
family.*

LEARNING FOR LIFE

*Journeying together with each other,
we work in harmony
to provide outstanding Catholic Education
for all our pupils preparing them to fulfil their mission
to the world in which we live.*

Policy Adopted: October 2021

To be reviewed: October 2022

This policy is correct as at the date of the policy. However, any information documented within may be superseded by any new information received from the LA or the Diocese after the date of the policy and which will be automatically adopted with immediate effect.

The Nature of Spirituality, Prayer and Worship

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 words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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. It is our aim that all assemblies include Collective Worship.

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.

At St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Spirituality, Prayer and Worship in the Life of our School

Spirituality is the essence of being human - to be related to God. We recognise that we are created by God, in His image and likeness, and that Prayer and Worship call us into relationship with Him. Spirituality, Prayer Life and Worship are therefore an integral part of school life at St Catherine's and central to the Catholic tradition.

Our aim is to educate pupils in the experience of liturgy and worship that actively involves them in a way best suited to their age and stage of development, to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. 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

Collective Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. As a Catholic community we endeavour to support pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will gain insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. We believe that this begins with a personal invitation and call from the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and nurtured.

The Aims of Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To nurture the uniqueness of each individual as a member of God's family
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
 - Prayer
 - Silence
- To enrich religious experience and assist the Church in its mission of making Christ known to all people
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer, worship and spiritual reflection
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ and God our Creator

Principles

Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church
- Be inclusive in response to the needs of all pupils
- Reinforce the sense of community in our school and enable the sharing of whole school values
- Celebrate the various achievements of the community
- Appreciate and develop positive values, with special emphasis on our core school Mission
- Have breadth and balance

The Learning Environment

All classrooms will provide the following to nurture spirituality and prayer life:

A prayer table and display related to the Church season and the topic being taught through 'Come and See'. The focus area should have a Bible, crucifix, candle and any other objects or symbols which encourage reflection and spontaneous prayer.

Children are encouraged to understand prayer as a conversation with God in which we listen to what God wishes to communicate to us. Children are made aware of the many ways in which God makes himself known, through creation, the sacraments, His Word and the words and actions of those around us. We help children to explore prayers of adoration, thanksgiving, praise, and repentance (TSP). All children are given the opportunity to pray through a variety of media including dance, music, song, drama and art.

Prayer is a part of the beginning or end of an RE lesson taking the form of traditional prayer, meditation or reflection.

Celebrations will:

- be appropriately paced and engaging
- include a range of experiences through language, music, dance, drama and art in a variety of settings. Assemblies are an experience of Worship and can be presented in a variety of forms. They are prayerful and encourage openness to God

All assemblies begin with the Sign of the Cross, lighting of a candle and include elements of prayer and praise.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship. Pupils will develop skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship in a meaningful way.

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', RHSE, significant dates and the curriculum
- With scripture will be central in the majority of acts of worship
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- To create the right atmosphere to ensure that pupils respond in a positive way
- To allow pupils to reflect on, affirm and celebrate shared values and aspirations
- Considering the setting and organisation of the way the children are seated so that the intimacy of the environment is maximised. It will be quite distinct from other activities and will have a focal point for worship with symbols, pictures and artefacts

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- ❖ Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ Proclaim - liturgies will normally centre on a text from the Bible from which The Word of God will be proclaimed.
- ❖ Respond - The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.). We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers).
- ❖ Go Forth - Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Prayers

Daily prayer sessions in each class will include:

- Morning prayer
- The Our Father
- Hail Mary (During May and October specifically)
- Lunchtime prayer
- Evening prayer
- Glory be to the Father

Prayers during R.E. lessons:

- Children's own prayers using key vocabulary from the 'Come and See' topic

Eucharist

Mass in school will highlight a special occasion. Throughout the year we have a Beginning of the School Year Mass, an Epiphany Mass and a Resurrection Mass. Masses are carefully planned in consultation with the Parish Priest to ensure the content is appropriate. 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

Recording

Prayer and Collective Worship are recorded:

- through PowerPoints, reflections, spiritual journal, photographs, etc.
- through pupil response/in discussion or written comment - class prayer trees

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

Central to the Catholic faith is the understanding that although we are all different, God loves each one of us equally, regardless of background, gender or ability. In our Worship, we recognise and provide for the individual needs of children, acknowledging that all children have different gifts and talents and that these should be celebrated. We ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to thrive and achieve success by helping them to reach

their full potential and to develop a positive self-image. We aim to ensure that resources reflect the multi-cultural society in which we live, enhancing awareness, developing respect for and knowledge of other faiths and cultures. This is essential in preparing children to take their places in a multi-cultural society.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by SLT and governors 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.

Resources

Each class have access to a set of Bibles. A class Bible is displayed on each RE table in all classrooms. Additional resources are available from the RE Leader.

The Leader for RE

The Leader will:

- With the support of the Head teacher, formulate a written policy for Collective worship, involving staff, parents, pupils and governors
- Ensure that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school action plan and is linked with the R.E. and School Development Plan
- Ensure that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensure that Collective Worship takes account of the religious education needs of all who share in it
- Assist the governors and Head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
-

With regard to planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating, will:

- Maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation
- Observe on occasions, an act of Collective Worship
- Inform the Head teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship
-

With regard to communication, will:

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Report to and consult with the governors and Head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Act as support for colleagues
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaise with the Parish Priest
- Liaise with the Diocesan RE Department

With regard to professional development will:

- Lead and organise in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back
- Keep up to date by personal reading and liaison with colleagues in other schools

With regard to resources, will:

- Evaluate existing resources
- Develop the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budget efficiently

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. Pupils will also be consulted to evaluate collective worship through a questionnaire given to a range of children across the year groups.