

# Prayer & Liturgy Policy

St. Mary's R.C. Primary School



*Filled with the  
wisdom of Mary,  
we nurture a love  
of learning;  
serve others with  
compassionate  
hearts and live life  
to the full as  
children of God.*

*— Learning, Loving & Serving like Mary —*

Approved by:

Mrs. Myerscough

Date: Nov 2024

Next review due by:

November 2025

## Our vision

At St. Mary's, we envision our pupils responding positively to the experiences of prayer and liturgy offered by the school. They will:

- Participate willingly in the regular prayer and liturgical life of the school, demonstrating their engagement through reflection in silence, confident participation in communal prayer, and readily joining in with hymns and songs. This positive response will foster a sense of reverence and respect during collective worship.
- Develop an understanding of the different ways of praying that are part of our Catholic tradition. This understanding will include, for example, how scripture, symbols, silence, meditation, reflection, and liturgical music can enrich prayer. They will also be able to describe the different parts of the Church's liturgical year and explain how it influences the school's prayer life.
- Collaborate effectively with teachers, peers, and chaplains to prepare engaging experiences of prayer and liturgy. The school will provide opportunities for pupils to undertake liturgical ministries, offering them training to ensure they are well-prepared to participate in this way. Pupils will also begin to develop their capacity to evaluate the quality of prayer and liturgy and suggest ways to improve future experiences.
- Recognise and articulate the ways in which prayer and liturgy connect to the curriculum and the wider life of the school. They will understand how prayer and liturgy can be influenced by the curriculum and school events, and how they can, in turn, enrich these areas of school life.
- Develop an understanding that prayer can lead to action. Pupils will learn to reflect on their experiences of prayer and liturgy and articulate how these experiences can guide their actions and choices.

## Mission Statement

Our distinctive charism of Mary enables us to through worship, come together to **learn** from God's message, to spread the Gospel message through **love** and to move forward in faith, living life to the full, together by **servicing** others.

## The Nature of Collective 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 word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness 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. We 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.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be classified under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

### **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. Worship in this school is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

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

We believe that Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following: -

To contemplate the mystery of God;

To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;

To develop the necessary skills of:

- reflection
- reverence
- contemplation
- interpretation
- empathy
- meditation

Which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us: -

To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;

To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;

To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;

To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;

To develop the skills of praying in all its differing forms.

### **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Give everyone opportunities for personal reflection;
- 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.

### **Daily Prayer in Classes**

Each class has its own altar/focal point for Celebration of the Word. A school prayer book supports staff and pupil in the progression of prayers throughout school.

Morning prayer

Grace before meals

Grace after meals/meditation/reflection

Prayers at the end of the day

### **Class Celebration of the Word**

EYFS and KS1 teachers provide opportunities each week for children to have their own worship within the class.

KS2 children are greatly encouraged and taught to prepare and lead their own class worship each week, following the progression. They are based upon the Liturgical Year, the RE topic, current events and the Sacramental Programme.

The GIFT Team prepare the scripture and prayers for whole school assembly on a Monday. Whole school liturgies and worships are prepared and lead by the pupils, supported by the GIFT Team.

Each class has the opportunity to use church on a regular basis for periods of reflection and class worship.

Classes have their own selection of prayer and scripture-based books.

Ten:Ten resources available for daily class worship.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gospel Assembly	Assembly KS2 Class Celebration of the Word KS1	Assembly EYFS and KS1 Class Celebration of the Word KS2	Singing Worship	Good News Assembly

Celebration of the Word in class must take place on days that there is no assembly. Singing Worship (Hymns) is included in daily acts of Worship and in a set assembly on Thursday.

### **Celebration of the Eucharist**

We believe that The Mass is the ultimate expression of our existence as a faith community. It therefore it takes a central place in school life.

We celebrate Mass regularly with parents and parishioners.

We have school Masses throughout the school year, celebrating different Feast Days and Holy Days, marking the beginning and end of Advent and Lent and the beginning and end of each term.

Each KS2 class attends a parish mass each term.

Pupils take a fully active part in preparation, reading and serving.

### **Other Celebrations/ Liturgies**

The feast days of our four house teams: Bakhita; John Paul; Carlo and Sandra are celebrated during the year.

In May we crown Mary. Our Patron Saint, during Mass or a separate celebration.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Each KS2 class has the opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation throughout the year. During Lent and Advent there are further opportunities for example following Friday morning mass during Lent. The classes are given the opportunity to be involved in the preparation, including choosing scripture and music. In EYFS and KS1 the children have more informal time in class to reflect and say sorry to God through Celebrations of the Word.

### **Advent**

The beginning of Advent is marked through our Advent mass for KS2 and Celebration of the Word for EYFS and KS1.

We prepare for the season of Advent by 'going purple' across the whole school.

The Travelling Crib is sent home with a different family each day during Advent and into January. The aim is to bring parents closer to the faith life of the school and the Church. The children complete a prayer diary which might include a painting or drawing, a prayer or a photograph.

### **Rosary**

A mass for 'Our Lady of the Rosary' is celebrated in October with each class offering their own 'Rosary Beads'. The Rosary is led by the GIFT Chaplains during October. Each class has a Rosary bag which is sent home with children throughout October.

### **Lent**

An Ash Wednesday service marks the beginning of Lent for our KS2 pupils and a short Celebration of the Word for EYFS and KS1.

Stations of the Cross is led by each KS2 year group, for parents, parishioners and pupils on Fridays during Lent.

Each class produces a piece of artwork based on one of the stations of the cross which is displayed in school or church. Holy Week celebrations are an integral part of our school celebration and prayer life. Lenten prayer bags are sent home to mark this special time of year, these include Cuddly Jesus, Story Spoons, prayers and reflections and different books based on the Easter story.

### **Pentecost**

Pentecost is a whole school celebration where we encourage children to reflect on and celebrate the birth of the Church. We involve the whole community in a variety of ways, for example a Pentecost Parade or a Pentecost Party. There is always a mass or Celebration of the Word to celebrate, and activities led by the GIFT Chaplains.

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Celebration of the Word**

Celebration of the Word is planned:

- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To be spontaneous and meaningful. Emphasis is on active participation.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

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.)
- ❖ **We Listen** – Every worship will centre around at least one text from the Bible or a piece of Scripture

- ❖ **We Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (prayers of intercession.)
- ❖ **We Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

### Progression in Worship

The progression of Collective Worship is carefully considered and throughout the school and builds on from children’s prior experiences.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	UKS2
Listen to scripture	Lay out altar with help  Listen to scripture	Lay out altar with some guidance  Read scripture	Lay out altar with some guidance.  Select theme for scripture  Respond to a psalm.	Set up altar independently  Prepare reading and psalm (help may be given)	Set up altar independently, being increasingly creative.  Select reading and prayers from a variety of sources (Bible, books, workbooks, web etc.)
Take part in circle prayer with a prompt	Take part in circle prayer with a prompt	Make up own circle prayer	Make own circle prayer and use symbols.	Improvise circle prayer.	Compose prayers in different styles to match given needs.
Participate in short periods of silence	Participate in short periods of silence.	Increasing comfort with periods of silence	Spend time in silence.	Select prayers for use  Using ICT, select images to be used for reflection.	Prayers become increasingly detailed in what they are asking for, the reasons why and what they want the outcome to be.  Create ICT aids (e.g. PowerPoints/photo story) Search for visual aids (eg. from a bank of YouTube videos / Google image/CAFOD resources)
					Match prayers and readings with a given theme. Invent own symbolic actions.  Spend increasing amounts of time in silence.

### Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Through displays, collections of pupils’ contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc
- In Floor Books
- Through class Twitter and Dojo

### Monitoring and Evaluation

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. Feedback is shared with staff.





### **Resources**

Each class has its own collection of Worship resources. A main supply is maintained by the RE coordinator and is available at all times.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the RE Lead and Headteacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every year.

## Appendix 1

Year:	Date:	Worship Leaders:	Think about
<p><b>Gather:</b>  <i>We come together as part of God's family.            Make everyone welcome!</i></p> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liturgical colours</li> <li>▪ Liturgical colours (Green, purple, white/gold, red)</li> <li>▪ Prayer focus table</li> <li>▪ Bible</li> <li>▪ Cross</li> <li>▪ Symbols/ objects/               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pictures/ photos</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Candle</li> <li>▪ Music</li> <li>▪ Sign of the cross</li> </ul>
<p><b>Listen - Word:</b> <i>God speaks to us and we listen.</i></p> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bible Reading</li> <li>▪ Scripture</li> </ul>
<p><b>Response to word:</b> <i>prayer / symbolic action:            We respond to the Word of God.</i></p> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Singing</li> <li>▪ Reflection</li> <li>▪ Sacred Silence</li> <li>▪ Dance</li> <li>▪ Gesture/ action</li> <li>▪ CAFOD story</li> <li>▪ Drama</li> <li>▪ Picture / photo</li> <li>▪ Create</li> </ul>
<p><b>Go forth: (mission)</b>  <i>We want to share the Good News!</i></p> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gospel phrase</li> <li>▪ Song</li> <li>▪ Learn about CAFOD</li> <li>▪ Tell others about CAFOD</li> <li>▪ Action</li> <li>▪ Campaign</li> <li>▪ Prayer card</li> <li>▪ Artefact</li> <li>▪ Picture</li> <li>▪ Big question</li> </ul>
<p><b>What our class friends thought: (Review – How well it went?)</b></p>			