

# Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School



## Liturgy and Collective Worship Policy

*"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God."*  
St John Damascene

### **Mission:**

The mission statement of the school underpins this policy namely: We live and learn in faith and love for the Lord.

### **Aims of Collective Worship:**

This policy aims to strengthen our School Mission Statement and ethos by enabling staff and children to know, understand and experience Catholic prayer and its significance in our lives today. It also aims to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable children/staff to independently plan liturgies.

### **Legal requirements:**

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which states:

"Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of Collective Worship, this withdrawal will be done in consideration to the CES guidance on withdrawing children from Collective Worship.

### **School Provision:**

Clear curriculum maps have been implemented Spring 2022 and timetables indicate when liturgy and collective worship is happening. These are reviewed every half term and updated in line with the liturgical year and in line with the children's needs and learning (intent). The following provision is in place:

### **Daily Provision:**

Prayer at the start and end of the day. Daily acts of worship in the classroom led by prayer leaders and/or class teachers - Prayer is an integral part of the beginning and end of each day for all members of the school community. At least fifteen minutes each day is set aside for Prayer and Liturgy - this includes Grace before and after meals.

### **Weekly Provision:**

- Whole school 'Gospel' liturgy/assembly: Held at the very start of the week based on the Sunday Gospel and led by a school leader.

- Phase assemblies: During the week a gathering with children of a similar age. This focuses upon developing the Gospel theme, a celebration/commemoration from the Liturgical Year, the exploration of a Gospel value/virtue, a national event. Led by teachers within the key stage/phase it gives an opportunity for staff to offer personal witness.
- Gift from God Assembly: Led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or senior teacher. A whole school gathering celebrating the achievements (academic, sporting, spiritual, social etc.) of the children and the school community.
- Class Prayer: During class/pupil led liturgies there is time for prayer and reflection within the classroom setting which extends upon the Gospel theme, explores a Gospel value/virtue, a celebration/commemoration from the Liturgical Year, a national event or links with work in RE. This is more than a recitation of the morning/evening prayers.
- Mass: A celebration of Mass for at least one group within the school community each week. Opportunities to attend Mass within the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time as well as at the beginning and end of every term. EYFS are included in this (summer term or when ready). Opportunities to attend Mass celebrated in Church are also provided, however weekly class Masses are celebrated in the chapel based on the school site. The pupils and staff participate in the Mass fully, consciously and actively. Parishioners also join us for Mass. The pupils also fulfil roles in reading, altar serving and the Presentation of Gifts and participate in music, silence, responses and gestures.
- Staff Prayer: A short time for staff to pray together led by staff in turn. Prayer is used at the beginning of any staff meeting.
- Parents: The school community welcomes and encourages parents and families to take part in some of the liturgical celebrations taking place e.g. Class Mass, Gospel Liturgy etc.
- Child - led liturgies (in class or as part of Key Stage assemblies.)
- A strength of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is that Collective Worship is enhanced by the children and staff's love of RE and their engagement in RE is enhanced by their love of collective worship. Their religious literacy is evident in both.

### **Other Provision:**

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and/or Benediction: Periods of quiet prayer, praise, thanksgiving and intercession before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Carol Services/nativity: A liturgical celebration of scripture readings, reflections and carols in preparation for the season of Christmas.
- Class Assembly: Usually where a class presents/performs to an audience including parents. There would be a prayerful element threaded into this.
- Family/school Masses: Opportunities for children and families to come and celebrate Mass at the weekend with the parish. The school fulfils roles in music, altar serving and reading at weekend parish Masses.
- Vocation Day - Whole School Celebration drawing upon who God has called us to be.
- Harvest: Mass and thanksgiving for the Harvest.
- Holy Days of Obligation: All Saints (1 November), Ss. Peter & Paul (29 June). All children should participate in the celebration of Mass on these days. In addition, the Solemnities of the Epiphany, and Corpus Christi, transferred to the nearest Sunday, should be marked in school with the celebration of Mass.
- The School's Patronal Feast Sacred Heart is celebrated in June.
- Hymn Practice: This time does not count towards Collective Worship. However, when done will enhance what is provided and can be a prayerful experience in itself and certainly has an impact when used within prayer and worship time.
- Parents: Opportunities for parents to be present and participate in prayerful activities e.g. Stations of the Cross, The Rosary etc.
- Prayer Bags: A bag containing resources and artefacts to support prayer in the home.

- Processions: particularly during the month of May for Our Lady and June for Corpus Christi.
- Retreats: Either off or on site and particularly for those year groups being prepared to receive the Sacraments.
- Sacramental preparation and the opportunity to receive Sacraments in the parish church.
- Staff Retreats: An opportunity for staff to reflect upon their vocation and the mission of the school. This could also include governors and the other MAC schools.
- Wednesday Word shared weekly with the children to take home.

### **Prayer:**

- Prayer and Liturgy is rooted in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church. This includes seasons, solemnities, feasts, memorials of saints and the ferial celebration of the Church's Liturgy.
- Prayer in the class room and in assemblies always include the use of symbols and a focal point for prayer which is appropriate to the liturgical season and content of that time of prayer.
- Opportunities and training are given for staff at all levels of the school community to be involved in leading and participating in Prayer and Liturgy.
- Opportunities are given for students to actively participate in prayer and liturgical actions and where appropriate lead the time of worship.
- Prayer and Liturgy is to be sometimes influenced by aspects of the RE Curriculum and other areas of the National curriculum. This reminds us that whilst Prayer and Liturgy is always concerned with nurturing our relationship with God it also takes on an important educational dimension.
- That the celebration of Mass is weekly and is a regular part of the school's provision for Liturgy. In the Eucharist the school celebrates its Catholic identity and acknowledges that the source and summit of its life is found in the offering of Jesus Christ.
- Provision for Prayer and Liturgy takes into consideration the age and maturity of the students and appropriately provides for their different needs. SEND pupils are supported by the use of pre-teaching techniques and the use of additional adult support.
- Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy provide the school community with a chance to experience a variety of forms of prayer that help each individual foster their own relationship with God in the school community.

### **Planning:**

Planning takes the format of gather, listen, respond and go forth following the diocese model.

### **Monitoring:**

A monitoring programme has been implemented Spring 2022 that will be reviewed and updated every half term. Monitoring is used to inform next steps in terms of professional development for staff and learning for children.

School leaders and the RE leader are responsible for monitoring Collective worship and liturgy in school.

### **Links with the Parish Community and Parents:**

The parish priest supports with the community links by saying Mass for the children both in the chapel based on the school site and in the church. The priest is a visible member in the school and supports with lessons when relevant in classes. The community are all welcomed to join the children for celebrating and this is announced on the church newsletter.

Links to the parish also include sacramental preparation, consultations within the community and close school/parish links that have been formed via the parish priest and school leaders/staff. Fr. Tim sends a weekly message as a way of communicating with children, families and staff. It is a strong connection between parish, community and school.

### **Resources/Budget:**

An allocated budget is assigned to the curriculum which includes prayer and collective worship. Resources are kept in classrooms, the hall storage cupboard and around the school. School has its own indoor prayer area that is visual to all who visit school. School also has an outdoor peace garden that children can use to reflect and for prayer services weather providing. The children can also access external Stations of the Cross.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:**

Sacred Heart is an inclusive school and all children are included in liturgy and collective worship in school. Where pupils have special educational needs or disabilities, staff support with them accessing worship.

### **Health and Safety:**

- Candles are used, there is a risk assessment in place for the safe use of candles in Mass and Worship in school.

### **Review date:**

Policy to be reviewed Spring Term 2024 or sooner if changes are required.

### **References:**

- Handbook for Leaders of Prayer and Collective Worship
- Guidance for Developing the Provision of Liturgy and Collective Worship in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham