

St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (Prayer and Liturgy)



Living and working as Jesus taught us.

ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, in its approach to Collective Worship, endeavours to take into account the religious and educational needs of all within the school.

Adults and children:

- Who form part of the worshipping community in Church
- For whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- Of other Christian traditions
- From other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship in St Anne's is an educational and spiritual activity or experience:

- In which all can contribute
- From which all can give

This policy statement is based wholly upon our School's Mission Statement. At St Anne's, Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) is recognised and valued as more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic Education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and liturgy.

Our Collective Worship, whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment is Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Aims

Collective Worship aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by :

- Providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- Developing a community spirit
- Promoting and encouraging a common ethos, and sharing values and reinforcing positive attitudes
- Providing opportunities to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues
- Building a firm foundation of Liturgy
- Providing an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain
- Ensuring pupils have the opportunity to explore their own beliefs
- Respecting and celebrating life
- Enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging
- Promoting each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination

Objectives

To fulfil these aims, St Anne's will provide opportunities for our community to :

- Celebrate life and learning
- Give worth to
- Wonder at
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God
- Enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- Pray together
- Take part in worship through prayer, drama and song
- Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- Explore the child's own experiences by helping each individual to explore, reveal and respond with regard to all acts of Collective Worship

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Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) – Who?

At St Anne's, the Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure provision of collective worship on a daily basis for each child. Teachers enable Collective Worship to take place each day. Parents/Carers and governors are often invited to participate in acts of Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship.

In the classroom - this room is where our children spend most of their time therefore it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and members of staff. Here a focus for worship is provided based on a planned topic, time of the year or relevant theme. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in the planning process.

In the school hall - here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers, governors, parishioners and family friends, come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the open - we have wonderful school grounds to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In Church – our Parish Church of St Agnes' and St Aidan's is a beautiful place to share the message of the Gospel. It is a place of celebration where we can come together to share and worship with the Parish community.

Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) – When and how?

We assemble in a variety of groups including class groups, key stage groups or whole school.

The format of a Prayer and Liturgy (Collective Worship) is the group will: Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth – this is modelled on Inset Days by Senior Staff members and the RE team, it is also modelled in school with the children for other members of staff.

Assemblies/Shared Collective Worship

Assemblies begin with an act of Collective Worship and then continue with another area of focus. On a weekly basis there is one Key Stage 1, one Key Stage 2 and one whole school assembly. All staff take turns to lead the KS assemblies whilst the whole school assembly is led by the Headteacher or senior staff members.

The themes of the assemblies are often based upon planned themes, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects and global, national or local events. Each Key Stage prepares and leads a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See theme. Parents/carers, family friends and governors are invited to participate in Rejoice Assemblies. On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebration assembly. Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are often invited to these whole school acts of Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) e.g. Advent, Lent, Easter end of year.

Class Worship

For the remainder of the week, the class is the focus for worship. Themes are many and varied, including:

- Linked to our weekly theme
- Relating to work done in the Come and See programme
- Linking to the appropriate Liturgical season
- Linking to other celebrations
- Developing themes or ideas suggested by children or staff
- Address the needs of the children (loss, bereavement, celebration)
- Be prompted by aspects of the global dimension or news items

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The teacher may collate a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect. Acts of Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) will always include an appropriate reference from scripture.

The aim is for the teacher to support children in planning and leading the Collective Worship at an age appropriate level.

Children with Additional Needs

The whole school approach to Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) is inclusive, the individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

The content and delivery of Collective Worship allows for the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding. Much of the worship is governed by the themes planned. This ensures coverage of key themes and events in the Church calendar.

Cross Curricular

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience. It includes many areas of the curriculum and care is taken to fulfil our mission. Hence, our whole curriculum is celebrated, as we believe that every aspect of school life helps to develop the child's potential as an individual.

Evaluation

Collective Worship is evaluated with reference to a variety of possible Collective Worship experiences. Records are also maintained through display, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs.

Prayer

All teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child's school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy). Children gather together for prayer at the start and end for the day and also before mealtimes, we also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises.

Class teachers are encouraged to choose prayers, which they think are most suitable for their children's age. We also recognise that certain prayers form part of the culture and tradition of the Catholic faith and as such we are extending the range of prayers pupils know and understand as outlined below.

Foundation Stage

Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Simple responses at Mass
Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)
Simple litanies of thanks and praise
Prayerful reflection on the day
Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath
Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Key Stage 1

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be to the Father
Morning Offering
Grace at Meals
Act of Sorrow
Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, Prayers and Intercession, Children's Eucharistic Prayer II)

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Prayers used at Baptism
Prayer for Lent

Key Stage 2

I confess
Angelus
Benedictus (Luke; 1:67-79)
Magnificat (Luke; 1:46-55)
Eternal rest
Act of Contrition
The Mysteries of the Rosary
Stations of the Cross
Prayers at Mass: Penitential rite
Glory to God (Gloria)
Offertory prayers
Holy, Holy, Holy
Lamb of God
Rite of dismissal
Litany of the Saints
Prayers used for sacramental rites
Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts
Funeral Mass prayers
Blessing and giving of ashes

Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to make up their own prayers, either as individuals, group or whole class. Teachers use reflective music in order to create an appropriate atmosphere. Each class is also provided with a range of resources for their specific focus area for worship within the class.

Sacramental Celebration/Liturgy

Many of our Liturgical services are sacramental thus reflecting a deepening of the sacramental nature of our school.

Formal Liturgical services take place in order to celebrate:

- Advent/Christmas
- Receiving Ashes
- Lent/Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost

On these occasions all the pupils attend if it is a school based service or Mass. If the service or Mass takes place at St Agnes' Church, only Key Stage 2 pupils attend due to supervision ratios. Pupils usually lead the Mass readings which are taken from the Children's Lectionary. Parents who attend may bring with them siblings from KS1 or Foundation Stage.

Through the wide experiences of Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) we encourage our children to develop attitudes of praise and reverence. We allow their natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised and developed. In all our work in this area, we seek to proclaim the Christian message and to live it alongside our children, their families and all in our school community.

Conclusion

Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) at St Anne's provides opportunities for pupils and staff and wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our journey so that all involved in our community might come to.....

'Have life - life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

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We firmly believe that Prayer and Liturgy is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.

Signed:Date Autumn 2023 (Draft)
(Chairs of Governors)

