



# St Mary's R.C. Primary School Collective Worship Policy

September 2022

## **Vision:**

We believe that every child is a gift from God, therefore, we aim to provide an outstanding and happy Catholic education which develops the 'whole child' whilst enabling them to reach their full potential.

## **Mission statement:**

**We love God** ... so we follow the examples of Jesus

**We love learning** ... so we always do our very best in everything

**We love each other** ... so we treat each other as we want to be treated

## St. Mary's R.C. Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### **Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship, while reflecting the aims of our Mission Statement are:

- To provide opportunities for spiritual development
- To offer opportunities for traditional and individual prayers, reflection and spontaneous intercessions
- To enable children to develop a relationship with God
- To guide the children on their faith journey
- To enable the children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To provide the children with opportunities to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response and enable children to lead and be creative
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

### **Catholic Tradition**

At the heart of Catholic life is the practice of starting each day, or beginning any new piece of work with prayer. We make a point of dedicating our day and work to God, who is **at the heart** of our school.

### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school gathering and participating together taking an active part in assembly.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian and Catholic in nature, based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, we also have 'assemblies' that reflect and respect other religious traditions.

### **Terminology:**

Collective Worship (CW) is a term used in legislation; all schools are expected to provide Collective Worship. In Catholic Education, we use the terms 'Prayer and Liturgy'.

### **Prayer:**

- Can be formal or informal, routine or spontaneous, private or shared
- May include familiar prayers, prayers written for the occasion, spontaneous prayers, silence - prayer focus around school where children can pray spontaneously, stations of the cross, morning prayer, prayer before meals, Rosary etc

At St. Mary's, this type of prayer happens several times throughout the day, every day

### **Liturgical Prayer** (or it can be called 'liturgy' or 'class liturgy')

- A communal prayer that follows liturgical patterns
- Texts, symbols and gestures draw on the Catholic tradition
- Liturgical prayer allows schools greater freedom for creativity within these limits E.g. Gather (Welcome) – Word (Scripture) – Respond – Send (Witness).

See below for how we plan for liturgical prayer across the school

### **Liturgy:**

- A rite of the Church.
- Taken from official books
- Prescribed structure, gesture, words, symbols
- Limited room for adaptation E.g. Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Divine Office

See below for how we gather together in whole school/class Masses as part of the church community, and prepare children for the Sacraments

### **Organisation of Collective Worship at our school:**

#### **Whole School assemblies and community gatherings:**

Whole school assembly take place every Friday. This takes place in the school hall, where we meet as a whole school community, including parents and local community/friends. The Headteacher or a senior member of staff, leads the whole school assembly, and there are opportunities for each class to take a turn at leading an assembly during the school year. Year 3, as the Sacramental Programme class, lead two assemblies – on both Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. EYFS and KS1 Lead Nativity Plays every Christmas, with Years 3 and 4 leading their 'Carols Around the Tree' service on the day we break up for Christmas. Year 5 lead a very reflective Easter Play each year, with Year 6 leading the final assembly/reflection of the school year/their time at St. Mary's.

Assemblies are held in a respectful manner and we expect children to behave in an appropriate way; being quiet and thoughtful, listening carefully in a calm atmosphere, participating fully in prayers and hymns. However, Fridays assembly ends with singing and dancing together!

Whole school assemblies follow this pattern:

Every Monday, Mrs Killoran leads key stage hymn practice. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions on singing, the children now love to come together again to raise the roof with their hymn singing each week.

Mrs Killoran begins this weekly gathering with prayers followed by practicing old and new hymns together. Children also learn British Sign Language for popular hymns.

Fridays assembly always begins with the whole community praying together and the theme is based around current or topical issues/liturgical year/relevant feast days etc. The second part of the assembly is a celebration of the children achievements and gifts and talents. Children share achievements and awards are presented. Parents and parishioners are invited to this weekly assembly. This is a practical

demonstration of the way the home, school and parish work together to support the achievements of our children.

Fridays celebration assembly plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school. It is a very happy, joyous occasion and the children sing and dance together!

### **Class and phase liturgical Prayer**

#### **Key Stage 1:**

Every Tuesday morning, Years 1 and 2 join together in the hall, for liturgical prayer following our 'Statements to live by'

#### **Key Stage 2:**

On a rota basis, each class does:

- P4C one week - these are often based around a topical/current issue, Big questions
- Class liturgical prayer the second week – again based around a relevant topic for that class at that particular time
- Phase liturgical prayer in week 3 – these are usually based around our statements to live by

#### **Every day Class prayers:**

Every class prays together several times each day on a daily basis. Children pray together in class every morning, before lunch and at the end of the day. See appendix 1 for school prayers.

#### **Prayer Corner:**

In each classroom, a Prayer Corner is adorned with a candle, appropriate statues/cross etc and laid with the current appropriate liturgical colour cloth. This is used as a focus for a few moments of quiet reflection at various points during the school day, especially at the end of the day; when the children reflect on the day and what they have learnt and can learn from that day.

Each class in key stage 2 also has a holy water font where they bless themselves as a sign that as they enter school, it is a place where God is with us.

#### **Philosophy for children (P4C):**

Each key stage 2 class also takes part in regular Philosophy For Children (P4C) approximately every third week. These sessions allow the children to relax and really speak and listen to God. They discuss and ask 'Big questions' in an effort to develop further understanding of what God is saying to them. This is a safe environment where they can express their feelings and opinions and all are respected.

#### **Mass in St. Mary's church**

We are lucky to have the church on our doorstep. We have a rota system so every child attends mass at least once per half term. We usually begin each half term with a whole school mass, then starting with Year 6 down to Year 2. Each class plans, prepares and leads their own class mass in church with one class every week. The older children take more ownership of the mass. We also have whole school mass for special feast days and important liturgical occasions. Parents, Governors and the Parish community are invited to attend school Masses on a weekly basis. In May, the whole school honours and glorifies Mary, our school Saint, in our annual May

procession, where the children bring flowers to the statue of Our lady. A child from the Sacramental programme crowns Mary.

### **St. Mary's Church and community**

We have always strived to promote links with our church and the church community. This was especially difficult during Covid, but we visit church regularly and classes will resume church visits again this year to ask questions from Father and parishioners all about the church. Father will also resume his visits into school to allow the children opportunities to 'interview' him. This was always very enjoyable pre Covid.

The parishioners really enjoy our school visits to church as we raise the roof with our singing! They are now also enjoying being invited in again to our school events and special community/church showings of our Nativity Plays etc.

Our Year 3 children and their families join the Sacramental Programme in Year 3 and follow the path with school to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. School makes this preparation and the events very special and prepare the children and their families for these important milestones in their lives. The church events encourage families to come to Mass together.

### **Pupil Development in Prayer and Worship**

We have a systematic approach to developing skills in Prayer and Worship which aims to develop and extend pupils ability to pray and listen to God. This structured programme aims to ensure we are developing skills in our pupils which are age appropriate and allows them chance to explore and be creative, whilst developing their prayer relationship with God. See appendix 2.

### **Chaplaincy GIFT Team**

Our GIFT Team are appointed each year from Year 5. They formally apply and are interviewed by the Headteacher and Governors. Due to the high status and popularity of this role, we also appoint a GIFT Support team. We currently have 8 appointed GIFT Team members and 8 GIFT Team Supporters.

As well as being role models in promoting Social Action through leading charity work throughout the year, they also lead optional prayers sessions 3 lunchtimes each week. The prayer sessions have been reviewed and adapted to be more enjoyable and promote the idea that prayer and a relationship with God can be creative and fun. These are so well attended that at times, they cannot all fit in the designated GIFT Team room! In the nicer weather they lead prayer sessions outside and in the peace garden.

Our GIFT Team also share the weekly statement to live by and encourage children to pray throughout the school for each others special intentions.

### **Child Led prayer and Worship**

In response to the Section 48 Inspection in January 2015, our action was for our children to actively lead and plan prayer and worship and to prepare our children to take on leadership roles in engaging the whole community in prayer and worship. Our children now take on real leadership roles within class, phase, and whole school/community gatherings, as well as GIFT Team and independent worship

sessions. They actively plan and lead in their own masses and liturgical prayer through writing bidding prayers and sharing ideas and setting up themselves. This gives them a real confidence and a meaningful way to develop themselves as leaders but also helps them develop a genuine relationship with God.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect children to attend mass and assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excluded from attending religious worship and alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of the child during assembly time. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher will keep a record of any children who is withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Headteacher is the RE Lead in school, and is supported by the Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher. Together, they monitor and review the provision within school. It is the role of the named Governors with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship, Pam Kelleher and Delia Goodall, to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The Governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the Full Governing Board on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

### **Outcomes**

As a Catholic school, we enjoy gathering and praying together, as this strengthens us as a community. We provide the children with ways and strategies to pray, with the aim of helping them to develop their own personal relationship with God. We promote prayer and worship as a special, valuable and enjoyable experience in which we can speak and listen to God individually and collectively.

### **Links with other policies**

RE policy  
SMSC policy  
RSHE Policy

**Date: September 2014, reviewed every two years unless further amendments are needed in between.**

**Signed: Chair of Governors**

**Last reviewed and amended: September 2022**

## **Appendix 1:**

### **Our School Prayers**

#### **Morning Prayer**

Father in Heaven, you love me,  
You're with me night and day.  
I want to love you always  
In all I do and say.  
I'll try to please you, Father.  
Bless me through the day.  
Amen.

#### **Grace before meals**

Bless us, O God, as we sit together.  
Bless the food we eat today.  
Bless the hands that made the food.  
Bless us, O God.  
Amen

#### **Grace after meals**

Thank you, God for the food we have eaten.  
Thank you, God, for all our friends.  
Thank you, God, for everything.  
Thank you, God.  
Amen

#### **Evening Prayer**

God our Father, I come to say,  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for my family,  
And all the friends you give to me.  
Guard me in the dark of night,  
And in the morning send your light.  
Amen.

#### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now,  
And at the hour of our death.

Amen

### **Our Father**

Our Father who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses.  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen

### **Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end.  
Amen

Appendix 2:

**St. Mary's Developmental Prayer Programme 2022**

<b><u>Age Group</u></b>	<b><u>Objectives outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory</u></b>	<b><u>What this looks like at St. Mary's R.C. Primary School</u></b>
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience and recognise prayer is talking and listening to God</li> <li>• Experience praying with others as a celebration</li> <li>• To be able to join in simple prayers and hymns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to make the sign of the Cross, close eyes, join hands, light candle and can explain the significance of these actions</li> <li>• Prayers at different points of the day e.g. morning, lunch, end of day</li> <li>• Sit quietly and listen to relaxing music to enable pupils the opportunity to listen to God</li> <li>• Mission Statement – pupils pray the Mission Statement</li> <li>• Learn the Hail Mary</li> <li>• Pupils learn some children's hymns and prayers</li> <li>• Collective worship as a class and whole school</li> <li>• Attend Mass – once per half term, important Feast Days and at other relevant stages of the Church's Liturgical Calendar</li> <li>• Mindfulness and Peer Massage begins</li> </ul>
5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs and symbols used by the Church</li> <li>• Prayers used at the Eucharist</li> <li>• Prayers of the Mass</li> <li>• Prayers from scripture and tradition</li> <li>• Jesus prayer to his Father</li> <li>• Ways in which people pray in Church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• <b><u>PLUS:</u></b></li> <li>• Have own class Mass from Year 2 upwards</li> <li>• Children begin to write their own prayers and intercessions and are encouraged to pray individually at the class prayer table</li> <li>• Teach pupils the Our Father, Glory Be and we introduce The Rosary</li> <li>• Pupils are taught the responses used during Mass and are encouraged to participate during Mass by joining in with these responses</li> <li>• Pupils are taught non-verbal actions which are part of the celebration of Mass, e.g. genuflection, blessing themselves with Holy Water etc</li> <li>• Prayer boxes are sent home appropriate to the Liturgical Calendar</li> <li>• Children make use of the peace garden for prayer</li> </ul>
7-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs and symbols and their significance in Liturgy</li> <li>• Prayer in the life of Jesus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• <b><u>PLUS:</u></b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prayer Jesus taught his friends (Our Father) and its significance</li> <li>• A variety of prayer and prayer forms, formal and informal used for personal and community prayer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly class Mass – rota basis – where children increasingly plan the Mass including relevant prayers of the faithful and choose hymns; “He who sings, prays twice”. <i>St Augustine</i>. By Year 6, the children plan and lead much of the Mass and Collective Worship.</li> <li>• A variety of hymns are practised</li> <li>• The Chaplaincy GIFT team are recruited – actively plan and lead prayer sessions and charity work</li> <li>• Traditional prayers directly associated with the Sacraments are taught, e.g. the Act of Contrition</li> <li>• Mindfulness/meditation are further developed through the use of P4C and a deeper appreciation of talking and listening to God is encouraged</li> <li>• Big Questions are reflected upon during prayer and in RE teaching</li> <li>• Children pray the Stations of the Cross at KS2</li> <li>• How to pray according to the correct point in the Liturgical year, e.g. Lenten Promises; Holy Souls – November</li> <li>• Different types of prayer – asking, thanking, praising, saying sorry, listening to God through silent reflection but also in actions</li> <li>• Use of Prayer Boxes developed further; children are encouraged to add to the prayer boxes and complete reflection sheets. Children are also encouraged to bring in photographs and objects that reflect personal prayer and celebrations attended at home</li> </ul>
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In October, as St Mary’s School, we celebrate the month of the Rosary. The children learn about the Rosary, and how and why we pray it as we do. Each class follows this plan to ensure progression throughout the school:

Year 1 – Basic introduction to the Rosary/Hail Mary Prayer – learn and understand that Mary said it is a special prayer

Year 2 – As Year 1 – to look the 4 mysteries and identify them (basic knowledge)

Year 3 – As Year 2 – link to our positive emotions.

Year 4 – Focus on the 4 mysteries as Year 3 but in depth focus on Glorious Mysteries

Year 5 - Focus on the 4 mysteries as Year 3 but in depth focus on Luminous Mysteries

Year 6 – In depth look at all the mysteries