

**St. Anthony's School**  
**We Grow and Learn with Jesus**  
**Collective Worship/ Prayer and Liturgy Policy**  
**September 2022**

At St. Anthony's we aim to give our pupils a rich and wide experience of Catholic prayer and worship, giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

**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 more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

**The Aims of Collective Worship**

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

**Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, 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.<sup>1</sup> In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

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<sup>1</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

- Be short and appropriately paced;
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

At St. Anthony's we begin and end each session of the day in prayer. A daily Act of Worship takes place at 1.15 every day across the school. These may be led in the classroom, with other classes or as a school and can be led by teachers or pupils.

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of 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
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- 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 rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

### **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.

### **Voluntary Worship and Retreats**

Chapel – our chapel is used by all year groups for class worships, RE lessons and liturgies. The children from Years 2 to 6 are able to use the chapel during playtime and lunchtime with the permission of an adult. Prayers can be recorded in the chapel prayer book. Year 6 chapel monitors help change displays and maintain tidiness.

Retreat days, outings and visitors are planned by the coordinators with individual class teachers.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. 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. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to *“The Welcome Table. Planning Masses with Children”* which contains the complete text of the Church's *‘Directory for Masses with Children’* as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach.

In school, therefore, the '**Liturgy of the Word**', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.<sup>2</sup> (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 understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also 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 subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

### **Resources**

Subscription to Ten:Ten Collective Worship programme which provides a wide-range of media-rich prayer, liturgy and worship resources for Catholic primary schools.

Each class has its own prayer corner where various resources can be found.

Further resources may be found in the:

EYFS RE cupboard located outside Reception Padua

Staff room – a selection of reference books, syllabuses, plays and assembly books

Main Library – a selection of religious books for children and religious festival books

Assistant Head's office – resources for Mass, books, CDs and Bibles, books and artefacts relating to other faiths

Resource area – candles, statues, story sacks, soft toys, Advent wreaths

Practical room cupboard – crib figures.

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