



# **St John's Catholic Primary School**

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**



## **Our Values**

- We don't just talk we listen
- We tell the truth, even when it's difficult
- We value each others uniqueness and treat everyone fairly
- We challenge ourselves to be the best that we can and celebrate achievements
- We are passionate and enthusiastic about learning
- We aim to make a positive difference to our local and global community
- When we make promises we keep them

## **Aims and purpose**

Our aims and purpose in facilitating Prayer and Liturgy Policy are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Exploring and sharing as appropriate the spiritual and religious experiences of those who worship as members of the Catholic Faith
- To provide an opportunity for children to consider the purpose and meaning of life
- To enable the children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs in Jesus Christ
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection

## **Collective Worship**

Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinctive activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Prayer and Liturgy can, nevertheless, be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

'Taking part' in Prayer and Liturgy implies more than simple passive attendance. It follows, therefore, that an Act of Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from the children and children are encouraged to plan and lead class acts of collective worship.

## **Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy**

We conduct our Prayer and Liturgy in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate way. There are times when the children are required to be quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings, as well as expecting full participation in hymns, plays and prayers. We often use music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Classes should collect resources for collective worship that can be used by the children to help them plan collective worship.

We hold a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy in our school. This is taken in individual classes three days per week with the other two days involving the whole school coming together for assemblies. These are led by the Headteacher or when required the Deputy Head. The worship may include: music, songs/hymns, stories, shared experiences, plays, scripture readings, prayer and reflection. At certain times of the year e.g. Advent and Lent some classes join together for Collective Worship celebrations.

Each week there is an Achievement assembly and each half term parents are invited to attend. St. John's is a successful school and these assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

In addition to Prayer and Liturgy, our children regularly attend mass. Children in KS1 and KS2 attend mass once every three weeks. When the entire school attends a celebration mass – usually at the Church – a class or children representing more than one class prepare the liturgy.

Hymn practice sessions take place on a weekly basis and follow the needs i.e. preparation for 'audience participation' in Collective Act of Worship or, congregational participation in Masses or a selection of hymns in connection with the 'Come and See' Curriculum.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend daily Prayer and Liturgy. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during this period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with The Education Reform Act 1988.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Monitoring and Review**

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and formally in line with the school's MER (monitoring, evaluation and review) policy with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the named governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Prayer and Liturgy to monitor the policy and practice of Prayer and Liturgy. The governor concerned liaises with the subject co-ordinator and the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and Prayer and Liturgy.

**Signed: C. Smith**

**Date: September 2024**

**To be reviewed: September 2025**