

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



*'Let it be known to all who enter here that
Christ is the reason for this school,
the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes,
the model for its children, the inspiration for its staff.'*

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of coming together in worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children how to worship.
- To allow staff and children time for personal reflection

2 Prayer

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

2.2 All acts of collective worship are distinctly Catholic and may be based around Gospel values, biblical stories or the liturgical year. All include a time for reflection and both formal and informal (*spontaneous*) prayer.

Review date: October 2026

3 Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

- 3.1** We hold daily acts of collective worship. This may take the form of class prayer times, whole school or key stage assemblies or masses.
- 3.2** We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are expected to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3** The head teacher or deputy lead whole school assemblies on a Monday each week and the key stage assemblies are organised on a rota with teachers from each phase. Class assemblies, to which the parents are invited, are also organised on a termly basis. Priests, from the parishes we serve, regularly lead masses and liturgies during the year.
- 3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic faith, and we observe feasts and mark the events of the liturgical calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5** Our assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies through leading prayers, drama, praying and singing. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, Praise Certificates etc. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.6** Class worship is led by individual class teachers and in KS2 also by the children.
The children in KS2 have the opportunity to plan either individually or in a group at the start of each half term, a collective worship which they can deliver to the class during the allocated time. The children lead these acts of worship and they can take many forms, including music, prayers, power point presentations, readings, quiet time etc.
- 3.7** Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** Monitoring the policy and practice of prayer and liturgy is the role of the governing body in partnership with the headteacher and RE subject leader.
- 5.2** This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Approved by the Governing Body

Signed: _____

Date: **October 2019**

Chair of the Governing Body