

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

*'Loving God in all we do'*



### PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

*St Anne's curriculum aims to inspire pupils to learn.*

*The school's carefully sequenced curriculum provides the opportunities for children to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education.*

#### **Intent**

St. Anne's is a Catholic Primary School in Ormskirk, serving the parishes of St. Mary's, Aughton and St. Anne's, Ormskirk. We work in partnership with parishes and parents to provide the best possible education for our young people aged between 4 and 11, building on the foundations laid in Pre – School and local nurseries and preparing for their future development at the Catholic High School (or other Secondary School establishments.)

We believe that the ethos of the school must in all its spiritual, moral and cultural aspects reflect the teachings of Christ in the Gospels, in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church.

*Our intent is to provide a high quality Christian Education based upon the teachings of Christ in the gospels, recognising the uniqueness of each member of our school, enabling every one of them to develop his or her gifts and talents to the full.*

#### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with 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 Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School**

Prayer and Liturgy in St. Anne's school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

It 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.

## Implementation

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- Contemplate something of the mystery of God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Respond to and celebrate life
- Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- Develop a common ethos and shared values
- Enrich religious experience
- Grow in liturgical understanding and development
- Reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate fully
- 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 an enriching experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils 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;
- be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings (for example, the classroom, hall, spiritual garden)
- be held in a special, prayerful atmosphere.

Prayer and Liturgy in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- monitored
- evaluated

## School Weekly Timetable for Prayer and Liturgy

Day	Grouping	Topic / Celebration
Monday (10.00 – 10.15am)	Whole School Prayer and Liturgy	Led by Mr Bates
Tuesday	Classroom Prayer and Liturgy	Planned using Prayer and Liturgy Planning formats. Linked to the weekly theme.
Wednesday	Classroom Prayer and Liturgy	Planned using Prayer and Liturgy Planning formats. Linked to the weekly theme.
Thursday	Classroom Prayer and Liturgy	Planned using Prayer and Liturgy Planning formats. Linked to the weekly theme.
Friday (pm)	FS/KS1 Assembly KS2 Assembly	Led by teaching staff. Introducing the Sunday gospel.
Daily prayers also take place at the start and end of the school day and before lunch time as part of the life of our school.		

### Resources

All classes have a Prayer and Liturgy box of resources. A Prayer and Liturgy CD of resources has been shared with the staff, a book of weekly worship ideas linked to the Sunday Gospel, the Wednesday Word and the Ten Ten Resources are used to plan the worships. There is also a termly planner of themes upon which to base classroom worship. The planner gives guidance when choosing scripture readings, resources and correct liturgical colours.

### School Masses

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and include the children of an age appropriate to attend this celebration.

When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the '*Directory for Masses with Children*' as a basis for our practice.

### The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

Miss Beth Whiteside is the co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy and Religious Education. (Appendix 1 contains the 'Roles and Responsibilities' of the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator)

### Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

- ✓ Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Ensuring that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the school development plan
- ✓ Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- ✓ Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- ✓ Organising themes for Worship
- ✓ Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Prayer and Liturgy

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- ✓ Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- ✓ Observing, on occasions, an Act of Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy

### **Communication**

- ✓ Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- ✓ Acting as consultant to colleagues
- ✓ Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- ✓ Liaison with the Archdiocese

### **Professional Development / On-going formation**

- ✓ Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- ✓ Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- ✓ Keeping up to date by personal reading

### **Resources**

- ✓ Evaluating existing resources
- ✓ Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- ✓ Budgeting efficiently

## **Appendix 2**

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (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 Prayer and Liturgy 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 Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgy. However, given the importance of Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

Policy update March 2024  
Policy Review March 2026