

# **St John Vianney Catholic Primary School**



*"Seeking Growth Together through Jesus"*

## **Collective Worship and Prayer & Liturgy Policy**

**Date Reviewed: February 2018**

**Reviewed by: Anna Acton and Clare Evans**

**Approved by Headteacher**

**Date of next review: September 2019**

### School Mission Statement

At St John Vianney Primary School, prayer and liturgy is a fundamental part of daily school life. Through praying together we can fulfil our school motto 'Seeking growth together through Jesus'.

Our Mission Statement is:

***We are made in the image of God, and through Jesus we seek to grow as a caring Catholic community in faith and love; knowledge and understanding; aspiration and independence; using the talents we have been given to achieve the best we can.***

Worshipping together allows children to know and become the people God created them to be. Contributions from, pupils, staff, the parish priest and other visitors help to build up our Christian Community which is central to the Catholic ethos of the school.

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### Aims of prayer and liturgy

- To make Christ known to the whole school community.
- To build a relationship with God and show reverence.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To enrich religious experience by ensuring that children are active participants in worshipping God.
- To become familiar and confident with Catholic customs and traditions.
- To recognise and embed current scripture themes.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

## Principles

All prayer and liturgy in school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience fundamental to the life of the school and its character.
- Engage children in the life of the Church.
- Offer a range of creative experiences in a variety of settings, such as different prayer styles including dance and music.
- Be age appropriate.

## Content

The content of prayer and liturgy should:

- Follow the Church's calendar.
- Include scripture (Where possible the scripture of the day or the weekend's Gospel).
- Be varied, interesting and engaging.
- It includes a variety of experiences and responses (Music, song, art, candles, video, drama, meditation).
- Traditional church prayers are a regular part of prayer and liturgy and staff follow an age appropriate cycle.

## Organisation

- All pupils participate in daily prayer, this includes:
  - Morning prayer
  - Grace before meals
  - End of day prayer
  - Daily prayer & liturgy classroom sessions alternate with collective worship.
- Each classroom has a worship station which reflects the theme of the current liturgical season. It is also interactive and children have ownership of the resources used.
- The correct liturgical colour is used in worship areas.
- All teaching staff plan, lead and participate in weekly staff prayer and reflection.
- The staff room should have a worship area that is up to date and interactive.

## Planning and preparation

- In UKS2, worship is regularly prepared and led by pupils following the teacher's example.

- In LKS2, there is a weekly child led worship and a teacher led worship.
- In KS1, prayer & liturgy is teacher-led but there is active participation from children.
- Each class across the school uses the same planning format for prayer and liturgy, which follows the format of 'Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth'.
- Staff record some of their Prayer & Liturgy sessions as digital photographs in exercise books and floor books.

### Parish Links

- The school works alongside the parish of St John Vianney and St Monica's. The Parish Priest Father Daniel Etienne attends school daily as a form of communication with staff and children. He also takes part in prayer and liturgy sessions with children from all classes.
- Each month, children in junior classes lead the school mass, which takes place on Sundays at 11am. Staff and children liaise with the priest about the mass arrangements.
- Children in Year 3 are invited to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. This is run between catechists from the parish and the Catholic Life Subject Leader. The sessions alternate between a Sunday with the catechists and Monday after school with the Subject Leader.
- School liaise regularly with catechists and the priest to organise the logistics of the delivery of the programme to ensure its success.
- Children in Year 6 are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is run between catechists from the parish and the Catholic Life Subject Leader. The sessions alternate between a Sunday with the catechists and Monday after school with the Subject Leader.

### Following church teachings

- As a school we firmly uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church and strive to portray its teachings to the children on a daily basis. This is delivered through various Acts of Worship, the learning and singing of hymns and everyday prayer and liturgy.
- Each class in Years 3 to 6 engage in a termly mass in church, to which parents and parishioners are invited.
- Foundation Stage and KS1 classes engage in a termly Prayer & Liturgy session with the priest, where they begin to learn some mass responses, appropriate to the age of the child.

- Children have the opportunity to learn prayers, mass responses and hymns both within the classroom and in shared acts of collective worship.
- Children learn prayers appropriate to their age, in line with guidance from the 'Come and See' programme of study.