



St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (Prayer and Liturgy)

'Aspire to be more'

Aims

Collective Worship within St. Anne's offers opportunities

- to consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- to experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- to encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- to develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- to explore social, moral and spiritual values

Principles

All acts of Collective Worship should be:

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils
- designed to actively engage pupils and elicit a response
- resourced and planned
- memorable and enjoyable
- an educational activity
- a sense of occasion
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions

Organisation

Whole School Collective Worship

A weekly assembly is held for pupils on Monday mornings. The Headteacher or Senior Leaders deliver these assemblies, which is usually linked to the weekly Gospel or the Liturgical Year. Within each assembly there is a clear distinction made between the worship and practical aspects of the assembly.

Weekly Celebration Assembly

The whole school gathers together in the hall to celebrate achievements, in school and outside of school. This is led by the Headteacher and Year 6. House point badges are awarded and sporting and other achievements are acknowledged. Time is taken to reflect on our school values and the school prays together.

Class/paired classes Worship

On those days when pupils do not have a whole school worship, the class teacher leads a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week. This act of worship takes place at a time appropriate for each class.

Each act of worship is appropriately paced and lasts for a time suitable to the children's age and understanding (usually between 5 -12 minutes). With the support of their teacher the children are invited to prepare and participate in a range of experiences which always includes scripture and prayer and may also include: story, music, song, reflection, poems, and stillness.

Strategies

Worship themes

As advised by the Archdiocesan Primary Advisers themes for Collective Worship are either linked with the liturgical year of the church, to the RE topics being explored or are chosen to link with other topical or relevant events that the children may be experiencing - such as times of celebration or of disaster or tragedy.

Prayer Focus

A special area may be set aside in the classroom, or a prayer focus set up in readiness for worship. These may be a temporary feature set up by members of the class or group participating in worship. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. A special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artefact may be used as a centring object during prayer.

Resources

Each class teacher is provided with a copy of the school handbook of prayers and "God's Story" books and the school uses the Good News Bibles.

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the preparing and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies and in class groups, perhaps reading the scripture.

Class Masses in School

Where possible, class masses and acts of worship are planned and take place within the classrooms. Parents are invited to attend. Masses are also celebrated in school at the beginning and end of every school year and Services of reconciliation are held termly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is led and monitored by the RE Subject Leader. The school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils. Each teacher will have the opportunity to evaluate the Collective Worship throughout the school and will be included in decisions about future development.

Conclusion

Prayer and worship is central to Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of Collective Worship that are relevant, appropriate and life giving.

Last review : Summer 2023

Next review : Summer 2024