

Collective Worship Policy for Saint Mary's Primary School (updated July 2017)

With Jesus as our guide
We promise to care for one another
To work hard
To build a community in Christ's Love

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. - Hebrews 10:24-25 (GNT)

Our Catholic Schools are called to be Gospel inspired worshipping communities. The daily act of worship is an integral part of the life of Saint Mary's School community. Through scripture, prayer, worship and liturgy, we aim to celebrate our relationship with Christ and to nurture the growth of every child in the Catholic Faith and live out the Gospel values we share.

To achieve this aim we seek to:

- Create a sense of belonging.
- Foster an atmosphere of prayer and reflection.
- Develop an appreciation of worship as a celebration which is a joyful community experience.
- Provide an atmosphere where the children can explore, question and reflect upon their own faith.
- Value and encourage the children's prayer, worship and liturgical contributions.
- Affirm each other's gifts and talents.
- Foster an attitude of tolerance and acceptance of others.
- Make our liturgy, worship and prayer relevant to the age and development of the children.
- Include liturgical activities which reflect the Church's seasons.
- Encourage Home/School/Parish links in our worship and support for our Parish Sacramental Programme.
- Encourage full and active participation through the use of words, song, gesture, music, silence, reflection, listening and sharing.
- Help the children to develop a habit of prayer in their daily lives.
- Make links with the liturgical practice of the wider church, and help develop the children's knowledge of the rich traditions of the Church.
- Make the lives of the Saints and our church leaders relevant to the lives of our young people.

Worship and Prayer

Prayer reflects our personal relationship with God and celebrates our community as God's family gathered together. Children become familiar with traditional prayer through its use in school. The meanings behind the words and gestures are explored and explained.

Spontaneous, informal prayer is also encouraged, as the children are helped to talk to God in their own words.

There is also a time for quiet and reflection, which helps the children to be silent before God, to listen to Him and reflect on all that He gives us. We hope to create a prayerful atmosphere using reflective music as we gather and focus on the cross and the candle and other focus artefacts, as Christ our Light, is present amongst us.

We gather for prayer at the start of the day; during assembly; for Grace before meals and at the end of the day when we reflect on the day, say sorry for what has gone wrong, ask for God's help and thank God for all the good things we have experienced.

We also gather for Collective worship in class groups.

Eucharistic Celebrations

The children are encouraged to fully and actively participate in the preparation and celebration of Mass. Whole School Mass takes place at the beginning of each term. These are usually celebrated in Church with the parish community, prepared by the school.

Key Stage 2 Masses are usually celebrated up to four times a term, including an end of term Mass. Classes take it in turns to prepare the Mass. Children are encouraged to reflect upon the readings, compose their own Bidding Prayers, and penitential rite, help to choose the hymns, present the Word of God in word and gesture and to act as altar servers and manage the IWB and music. The class teacher and RE Co-ordinator, provide the priest with a Mass Planning Sheet. All Classes have the opportunity to take it in turns to join the Parish Mass on some Tuesday mornings in Church. All Key Stage Two children process to the priest at communion to receive the Eucharist, or a blessing, as appropriate.

Non- Eucharistic Celebrations (2017/18 – Action Plan)

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Celebration - Each term, FS and KS1 share a non-eucharistic celebration. The "Come and See" theme being taught is celebrated. Each class contributes in words, songs, pictures and drama appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The celebration centres around the Liturgy of the Word & Come and See themes. The children are encouraged to prepare their own prayers - sorry, asking or thanksgiving prayers, depending on the theme. Through this celebration, the children are gradually introduced to, and helped to understand, the various parts of the Liturgy.

We aim to help young children experience an atmosphere of joyful prayer as well as silence and reflection.

Parents are invited to all these Celebrations making them also, an opportunity to support families in fostering the prayer life of their children.

Gathering Together Our hope, in coming together for prayer, is that we might celebrate our belonging, develop the children's spirituality and deepen their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to

enter and leave quietly and to listen and participate (when appropriate). The cross, candle, gentle music or other appropriate focus are used, a focus table is set up by the 'chaplaincy team'.

Assembly themes relate to the liturgical year, the Sunday Gospels, the "Come and See" themes, CAFOD events; world events, Bible Stories, social and moral issues. Scripture is always at the centre of our prayer life.

Whole School Liturgies

There is a rota for whole school Liturgies with each class taking turns to prepare and lead the Liturgy. The Liturgy may at times be led by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or R.E. Co-ordinator supported by the chaplaincy team. These assemblies concentrate on the Sunday Gospel reading, liturgical feast or season, drawing the children's attention to the message of the Gospel.

The 'Sayings of Saint Teresa of Calcutta' are shared at these assemblies, for reflection during the week in class. We give birthday stickers to children celebrating that week and sing Happy Birthday.

Chaplaincy Team & Pupil Led Liturgy

The R.E. Co-ordinator trains and facilitates the chaplaincy team to work with children from different year groups on a rota basis to prepare and lead whole school collective worship. They focus on the main events of the Church's year, feast days on or around that day, the Liturgical Seasons, stories from the Bible, the Sacraments and other key themes relevant to today's society.

Achievement Assemblies

Parents are welcome to attend these assemblies where we celebrate the achievements of all our children. We celebrate academic, behavioural and sporting achievements within school, as well as out of school achievements in all areas. **Our School Buddies also present the 'Act of Kindness' Award to the children they see demonstrate living the Gospel around school. (2017/18 Action Plan)**

Assemblies begin with prayer and usually end with a hymn and have a focus table with candle, statue, Bible etc. to remind the children that their gifts and talents are God given. (2017/18 Action Plan)

Certificates and stickers are given out.

Themed Assemblies

During the course of the school year there is likely to be a number of themed assemblies linked to events in school (eg International Week; Book Week; Maths Week) or specific activities (eg CAFOD ; Harvest Celebration; Samaritan's Purse; Carpenter's Arms). There is always time for scripture, prayer and song, reflection and mission.

A half-termly rota is produced listing all the assemblies and liturgies and who will lead them. A Liturgy folder is kept in the entrance hall of all liturgical celebrations. Action Plan 2017/18 – started summer 2 2017)

Hymn Practice

This takes place each week with a pianist. It begins with a reflection and prayer time.

Reconciliation

Services of Reconciliation are celebrated each term. [2017/18 Action Plan](#)

A short service is led by the priest and, after reflection, every KS2 child who is able is given the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This is celebrated every year with a parish Sunday Mass and a school Mass, with food gifts being given and distributed, usually to Carpenter's Arms. A collection is taken for CAFOD.

Ash Wednesday Mass

This takes place if we are in school on Ash Wednesday and involves distribution of ashes. A service is shared and all children attend.

Holy Week Atrium

In the last week of the spring term, the studio is set up as an atrium with Stations of the Cross activities for the children to come at lunchtime to pray and reflect upon. Activities in 2017 included writing letters to God, messages of Hope (the Lampedusa Cross), making prayer bracelets, stones in water – let God wash away our troubles, what does God mean to you activity with scrabble letters. All ideas taken from the Briars confirmation retreat weekend.

Passion Celebration

At the end of the Spring term, children celebrate the last weeks of Jesus life, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, greeted by joyful song and waving of palms, to the solemn re-enactment of the last supper. Stations of the Cross are held during Lent. The stations are presented in a variety of ways for example, using the outdoor environment, or creating the children's own images and visuals. The Good Friday Children's Liturgy is organised and led by the R.E. Coordinators of Saint Mary's and Holy Cross Primary Schools where the whole parish is invited and ends with sharing Hot Cross buns. The priests attend and it is a popular event.

Pentecost Mass

Saint Mary's school takes an active role in the preparation and leadership of the One International Parish Mass which takes place each year on Pentecost Sunday. The R.E. Co-ordinator with the Chaplaincy team, prepares the Bidding prayers translated and read in the different languages represented in our school and parish community by children from our school. Saint Teresa's class with the help of other KS2 children and the Youth Group, paint and prepare flames for the opening procession.

Meditation and Rosary Groups

The Rosary group meets to make bracelets or pray the rosary on Tuesday breaktimes. Meditation takes place on Thursday lunchtimes although due to a weekly staff course did not take place summer term 2017.

Saint Mary's Youth Group

This meets every Friday after school from 3.15 – 5pm, organised and led by Mrs. Moore with support from Mrs. Abell, for prayer and prayer based activities and games. Summer 2, the youth group prepared prayer bags to encourage spontaneous prayer and raise money for the retired priests fund.

Youth group costs £2 per week and all money collected this academic year is being donated to the Retired Priests Fund.

Breakfast Club

Led and organised each Friday morning from 8am in the KS2 area by the R.E. coordinator with support from Mrs.Adamek to raise money – this term for the Retired Priests Fund – next term to be decided.

Resources

All staff have access to the 'Be Inspirational' website (where required password is 'romans12') which contains: differentiated prayer resources for each Key Stage to support all Come and See topics, resources for planning and delivering Collective Worship and resources for planning Mass in school. As part of the Bishop's Certificate Course a new Prayer Box resource to encourage and support spontaneous prayer will be available under R.E. Coordinators file to be printed out and laminated for each classroom. Assembly, Mass books and child-friendly Bibles are kept in the years 5 and 6 classrooms and there are books in the library as well as all original R.E. documents under the RE Coordinators file on Teachershare. Posters and visual aids are kept in the RE drawer in the studio. Drapes are available in the Learning Lounge but **candles, crosses, statues and icons are an area which will be added to the 2017/18 Action Plan.** New Laudate hymn books are on order for 2017/18 but there is a collection of music files under R.E. resources on Teachershare. **Staff CPD especially in the preparation of the Mass will be provided - 2017/18 Action Plan.** The Multi academy trust and the Diocesan centre at Mackworth will provide staff with opportunities for personal prayer and spiritual development. All staff meetings start with a time of prayer and staff are encouraged to support each other on their own faith journeys.

Trust Links

Saint Mary's school is actively involved in the joint activities and celebrations of the Trust. All staff attend the Joint Trust Day held every two years at De Lisle School for all Trust staff to support their personal spiritual development. Children take part in the Trust Chaplaincy Day held once a year at Mount Saint Bernard's Abbey. **Where possible, representatives attend additional events such as Lunchtime Masses at De Lisle School (Action Plan 2017/18).** The school aims to be an active and enthusiastic participant in the life of the wider Diocese. Where possible, the school takes part and engages with diocesan celebrations and projects throughout the year for example Masses and Liturgies for Schools at the Cathedral. Where we are not all able to attend an event we have arranged our Collective Worship to incorporate live broadcasts for example for Remembrance Day.

E.Abell July 2017