



## Policy for Collective Worship

Date Approved: February 2021

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

# Our Mission

We put Jesus at the heart of everything that we do.

special **kind** unique inventive  
generous awesome gentleness  
**purity** helpful good **positive**  
expressive enjoyable caring  
adventurous bouncy zingy  
fun **truth** colourful superb  
confident **polite** **compassion**  
**friendly** enthusiastic marvellous  
**comforting** nice remarkable  
happy **magnificent** great  
meaningful forgiveness  
exceptional **joy** wonderful  
interesting creative hopeful  
incredible **spectacular**  
original **brilliant** **peace**  
lovely **service** outstanding  
dynamic **amazing**  
**dignity** fabulous impressive  
**beautiful** **sacrifice**  
glorious **fantastic** **tolerance**  
exciting terrific delicious  
**integrity** cool considerate  
phenomenal laughing funny  
sharing **humility** loving  
energetic **smiling** captivating  
**justice** encouraging mercy  
gracious **faithful** important  
**supporting** delightful **thankful**  
hard-working tremendous



**St. Peter's**  
Catholic Primary School

*“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God.”*

*St. John  
Damascene*

## Mission

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, it is our Mission to put Jesus at the heart of everything that we do. We do this through applying our shared gospel values and virtues to everything that we apply ourselves to so that we live, where possible, in the image of Christ.

Our Mission was designed and made by children in 2015. All children have invested their time, prayer and creativity into our Mission so that it can be lived by us all.

This Liturgy and Collective Worship policy outlines how all of our stakeholders are expected to share the teachings of Christ with our children, staff, governors and families. It is hoped that each of our 'golden words' is celebrated through prayer and praising so that children have a thorough understanding of what it is to be a child of Jesus.

## Aims of Collective Worship

We aim to teach all of our children to:

- Pray by giving praise thanks and intercession to God using traditional prayers of the Catholic Church and many other sources of prayer that will enable this to take place.
- Come to know and acknowledge the presence of God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Continue to nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures and silence
- Take part in an educational experience that is rooted in prayer and the worship of God.
- Contemplate the mystery and transcendence of God who is ever close to us and ever beyond us.
- Develop a sense of wonder and awe at the presence of God amongst us and the gift of life itself.
- Explore the beliefs of the Catholic faith community and their own beliefs.
- Experience what it means to belong or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.
- Acknowledge joys and sorrows, the ordinary and darker side of life as part of a relationship with God.
- Learn how the Liturgy of the Church is structured and the meaning of the different parts of the liturgical rites.
- Be able to make links between communal prayer and liturgy and the daily life



## Legal requirements

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which states:

“Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>”

At St. Peter’s Catholic Primary School, we hope all children enjoy learning through prayer and worship but we also respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship. Any parent wishing to exercise this right is welcome to meet with the head teacher to discuss their options.

## How we meet our stated aims through the different forms of liturgy and collective worship

At St. Peter’s Catholic Primary School, we worship in many different ways. We aim to keep worship interesting and exciting for children and hope to engage them in reflection and contemplation as well.

- Children say prayers in class every day. Prayers are said at the start and end of the day and before and after lunch as standard in every class.
- In addition, children have a daily collective worship session in which we come together to celebrate and learn
  - Monday – The Word of the Lord Assembly (with the Head teacher)
    - We read the Gospel reading for next Sunday’s Mass. We draw out a theme for the week and consider how we can live the Gospel throughout the rest of the week. We introduce a special weekly prayer so that children can remind themselves of the Gospel each and every time they pray together in class. This assembly is concluded with prayer and a hymn.
  - Tuesday – Jesus teaches us... (with a class teacher on rota)
    - Class teachers each take a turn to lead whole school collective worship based on the teachings of Jesus. Themes are closely linked to the values and virtues that Jesus taught us in Beatitudes. This assembly has prayer and a hymn.
  - Wednesday – Songs of praise (lead by the Chaplaincy team)
    - Children lead worship through song. Hymns are selected that compliment our values and virtues as well as the seasons of the liturgical calendar.
  - Thursday – Class based collective worship
    - Children have a more intimate prayer session led by their classmates or teacher.
  - Friday – Thank you God (with the headteacher)
    - A Bible story is read to the children which links to our focus value or virtue OR to a relevant event in the week/year/season. During this celebration, we thank God for the gifts he has given us and share how we have shared these gifts and talents in what we have done.

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<sup>1</sup> Archdiocese of Birmingham ‘Instrument of Government for Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools.’

- Prayer and Liturgy is rooted in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church. This should include seasons, solemnities, feasts, memorials of saints and the ferial celebration of the Church's Liturgy.
- All forms of Collective worship involve pupils. Pupils might help to plan, lead or evaluate collective worship.
- Every day, staff meet before school to pray together. Staff prayer is led by a different member of staff each day.
- Prayer and Liturgy is sometimes influenced by aspects of the RE Curriculum and other areas of the National curriculum. This reminds us that whilst Prayer and Liturgy is always concerned with nurturing our relationship with God it also takes on an important educational dimension.
- The celebration of Mass is a regular part of the school's provision for Liturgy. In the Eucharist the school celebrates its Catholic identity and acknowledges that the source and summit of its life is found in the offering of Jesus Christ.
- Provision for Prayer and Liturgy should take into consideration the age and maturity of the students and appropriately provides for their different needs.
- Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy should provide the school community with a chance to experience a variety of forms of prayer that help each individual foster their own relationship with God in the school community.
- At least fifteen minutes each day is set aside for Prayer and Liturgy.
- Formal planning is not required for Collective Worship but it is considered to be good practice. Such information is collated within the 'Collective Worship' file in the Head Teacher's office.

### **Mass**

- Mass takes place in school and in church. It is planned with the priest and must involve the children in the planning, presentation and evaluation.
- Mass is led by a specific class or group of children and the led member of staff liaises with the priest to ensure he is satisfied with the plan before the Mass.

### **Links with the Parish Community and Parents**

- The school enjoys positive relationships with the Catholic Parish of Leamington Spa, as well as the local community.
- We encourage parent attendance at all Masses and Prayer Services where possible.
- We welcome positive home school relationships through the sharing of our Mission and the expectation that Parents sign up to it annually.
- Children bring prayer bags home to share prayer experiences with their friends and families.
- Families are welcomed at sacramental Mass celebrations and enrollment. We encourage involvement in retreats, local collaborations and shared Parish Masses.

### **Prayer Areas/Sacred Spaces**

- Each class has a designated prayer area. This is decorated according to the liturgical colours and contains items that are relevant to the season. Prayer areas are sacred spaces within classrooms and pupils must be taught to treat them as such.
- Every class has a crucifix which is hung in a prominent location, without being surrounded by learning aids.

- Our school has a chapel (the Upper Room) in which staff and pupils can enjoy a personal connection with God.

### **Monitoring**

- The RE co-ordinator and the head teacher are responsible for the monitoring of liturgy and collective worship. Governors also take part in the monitoring of RE and Collective worship.