

# **St. Ann's R.C. Primary School**

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

Last Reviewed: September 2024  
Next Review by: September 2025

## *Our School's Mission Statement*

*'We, the family of St Ann's, rejoice in our learning; striving for excellence. We challenge ourselves, follow Jesus and empower each other to be the best we can be.*

*Love, Respect, Service.'*

### 1. General Statement

In St. Ann's RC Primary School, we see the essence of prayer, worship and liturgical celebration as being central to our distinctive Catholic tradition. Through frequent Collective Acts of Prayer and Liturgy, staff and pupils experience a feeling of belonging to the school community. In worshipping together, we celebrate and grow in understanding of our faith.

#### 1.1. General Aims

Through Collective Acts of Prayer and Liturgy here in St. Ann's, we aim to:

- to know and love Christ;
- to celebrate the Word of God
- enhance and enrich the children's understanding of Gospel values and the Life of Jesus;
- encourage an understanding of our religious beliefs and practices;
- provide opportunities for group/ individual reflection and prayer;
- give children opportunities to contribute their own prayers and lead and participate in celebrations and the Liturgy;
- develop a strong sense of community;
- encourage an awareness and a sensitivity towards other individuals and their needs;
- foster a sense of awe and wonder in God's creation, and an appreciation of the need to conserve it.

#### 1.2. Principles of Prayer and Liturgy

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will;

- a) Give glory and honour to God
- b) Be enjoyable, and enriching for all involved;
- c) Be organised so that children can become actively engaged and feel valued and are included in the planning and delivery;
- d) Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and backgrounds;
- e) Be flexible, in response to special occasions.

### 2. Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Each school day at St. Ann's begins and ends with an opportunity for prayer and

reflection. Specific times are allocated on the daily time-table for Religious Education. Other opportunities may arise for less formal praise and thanks giving.

### Collective Prayer and Liturgy timetable:

Monday	9.15am – 9.45am Hymn practice	Years 2 – 6
Tuesday	9.15am – 9.45am Headteacher Gospel assembly	Year 3 – 6
Wednesday	9.15am – 9.45am Deputy Head Gospel assembly	EYFS & KS1
Wednesday	9.15am -9.45am Class worships -child led	Year 2 – 6
Thursday	9.15am – 9.30am Meditation - Be Still and Know	Years Rec – 6
Friday	9.15am – 9.45am Class assembly/Mass/Golden Assembly	Years 2 – 6 (when appropriate Y1 & EYFS attend)

#### 2.1 Gospel Assembly

This will include reference to the previous Sunday's gospel. As well as this, alternative themes, either religious or other, may be discussed (relevant to the needs and experience of the children). Children have the opportunity during the Gospel assemblies:

- to pray collectively and individually
- to reflect quietly on their own life and the lives of others
- to reflect on how they can live out the mission from the scripture
- to revise the responses of the mass when it is appropriate to do so.

#### 2.2. Golden Assembly

This celebrates the achievements and good behaviour of specific children chosen by their teachers. This is a positive way of reinforcing good work and behaviour in all areas of school life. As well as children's academic achievements and attitudes and behaviour, children are also nominated for following in Jesus' footsteps.

#### 2.3 Class worships

Class worships are led by the children and supported by the teacher. They follow an agreed format with children being given time to prepare the worship session before it is celebrated.

#### 2.4. Class Assemblies

Each class has the opportunity to display their talents and achievements in a special assembly based on a religious theme. Parents and friends are invited to attend assemblies. These assemblies contain scriptures, prayers, artwork, drama and a time for reflection.

## 2.5. Hymn Practice

Weekly hymn practices support forthcoming celebrations either masses or assemblies in school. Children are taught to see hymns as another form of prayer.

- 2.6 Each class has its own worship table which is changed regularly to align with the liturgical calendar and contains a scripture focus. Children can be encouraged to write their own prayers to display around the worship table.
- 2.7 The contents of this policy will be reviewed by the R.E Lead at the end of each academic year.