

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

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Last Reviewed: September 2023  
Next Review by: September 2024

## *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.*

*Motivate, learn, inspire.'*

### 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 Worship, 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 Worship here in St. Ann's, we aim to:

- 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 Collective Worship

- a) Enjoyable, and enriching for all is involved;
- b) Organised so that children can become actively engaged and feel valued;
- c) Directly related to the age, ability and background of the children;
- d) Flexible, in response to special occasions.

### 2. Organisation of Collective Worship

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 (see list of prayers learned).

Assemblies are held as follows:

KS1

Thursday: Prayer / Golden Assembly

## KS2

Friday: Prayer / Golden Assembly

### 2.1 Headteacher / Prayer Assembly

Where possible this will include reference to the previous Sunday's gospel or one of the readings. 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 Headteacher's assemblies:

- to pray collectively and individually
- to reflect quietly on their own life and the lives of others
- to revise the responses of the mass when it is appropriate to do so.

### 2.2. Golden Assembly

This takes place in both departments and celebrates the achievements and good behaviour of specific children chosen by their teachers. The names of the children are entered into the Golden Award Book and displayed in the relevant entrance hall. This is a positive way of reinforcing good work and behaviour in all areas of school life.

In KS2 a Golden Standard is set each time encouraging the children's good behaviour.

### 2.3 Prayer Assemblies

Prayer Assemblies take place each week in all Key Stages. Children are encouraged:

- to reflect quietly on their own life, the behaviour of themselves and others, issues that concern them and events that have happened locally, nationally and globally.
- to reflect on the Mission Statement
- to lead prayers
- to pray collectively and individually

### 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 and to enjoy the refreshments afterwards. These assemblies contain prayers, artwork, drama and a time for reflection.

### 2.5. Hymn Practice

As well as providing all children with songs from a variety of cultures and traditions, hymn practices will also support forthcoming celebrations either masses or assemblies in school. Children are taught to see hymns as another form of prayer.

- 2.6. The traditional prayers learnt by children during their life at St. Ann's are published in our school Prayer Book.
- 2.7. Each class has its own worship table which is changed regularly to be based on recent topics covered in class or may celebrate a special event or time of the year. Children can be encouraged to write their own prayers to display around the worship table.
- 2.8. There is continuous liaison between the key stages to ensure the continuity of progression.
- 2.9. The contents of this policy will be reviewed by the R.E Co-ordinator at the end of each academic year.