

# *Collective Worship Policy*

*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 Our Lady & St Edward 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 or use the prayer room.

## *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.

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, gesture, dance 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 Monday mornings in Church.

KS2 Masses take place in the school hall. Teachers and children can arrange the space to create a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere.

All Key Stage Two children process to the priest at communion to receive the Eucharist, or a blessing, as appropriate.

## *Non-Eucharistic Celebrations*

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 Assemblies** - All the main school children and staff are present and the assembly is led by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or chaplain and is 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 'Statements to Live By' are shared at these assemblies, for reflection during the week in class.

We give birthday cards to children celebrating that week and sing Happy Birthday.

**Chaplaincy Team & Pupil Led Liturgy** - The Chaplain(s) train and facilitate the chaplaincy team in working with children from each year group on a rota basis to prepare and lead the 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.

**Gold Book 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. 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.

Certificates and stickers are given out and copies kept to be put in Records of Achievement.

Children who have been in the Gold Book have their name put on the Awards Board in the Hall.

**Class Led Assembly** - Each term, all classes are given the opportunity to lead an assembly before the whole school and their parents. Themes are usually taken from the current "Come and See" termly topics, and show cross curricular work around the theme. Presentation and content vary according to the age of the children and the topic chosen. PSHE / 'Statements to Live By' are also reflected. Related cross curricular work is also reflected where appropriate. A strong feature of all the assemblies is the 'prayer time'.

**End of Term Liturgies** - These are held at the end of the day and take the form of reflections on Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter and thanksgiving for the school year. The emphasis is on stillness and contemplation (where appropriate for the season). The hall is darkened, candles are lit and reflective music is played. We pray together and listen to God's Word. The RE Co-ordinator, staff and children lead prayers. Parents are always invited.

**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 Multi-cultural Week; Book Week; Maths Week ) or specific activities ( eg CAFOD; Harvest Celebration; Samaritan's Purse ; Emmanuel House). There is always time for scripture, prayer and song, reflection and mission.

## *Evidencing*

A termly rota is produced listing all the assemblies and liturgies and who will lead them.

A clearly visible record is kept in the entrance hall of all assemblies and liturgical celebrations. This lists the type, theme, Scripture reference, prayers, and hymns.

## *Hymn Practice*

This takes place each week with a pianist. It begins with a reflection led by the teacher on the choice of music for the day.

## *Reconciliation*

Services of Reconciliation are celebrated in each half term. 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 food gifts being given and distributed to the needy, usually Emmanuel House. A collection is taken for CAFOD.

## *Ash Wednesday Mass/ Service*

This takes place if we are in school on Ash Wednesday and involves distribution of ashes. A service is shared and all children attend. Teachers often distribute the Ashes to their classes.

## *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.

## *Good Friday*

Children from the school present to the Parish, the events of Holy Week in drama and song.

This incorporates the Stations of the Cross and culminates in the Veneration of the Cross.

This is seen as a very important part of the parish celebrations and families and children look forward to being part of it.

## *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. All staff also have access to the

Google Drive (username: beinspirational.else password: romans12) which allows for easy storage and exchange of resources with the Trust Chaplains. The Chaplains visit the school once a week and are always available to offer extra support and assistance.

Assembly, Mass books and child-friendly Bibles are kept on the RE resources shelves in the library. Audio, DVD and IWB resources are also stored in the library.

Posters and visual aids are kept in the RE cupboard.

A wide range of drapes, crosses, candles, statues, icons are available in the entrance hall.

Hymns are on the server.

Resources for Mass are kept in a box in the cupboard in the 1-1room.

## *Staff CPD*

Regular staff CPD is provided by the Multi academy trust chaplains and the Diocesan centre at Mackworth. Staff are provided 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*

Our Lady and St Edward School is actively involved in the joint activities and celebrations of the Trust. All staff attend the Joint ISE Day held at The Becket School for all Trust staff to support their personal spiritual development. Students take part in the Trust Christmas Concert and take an active role in preparing part of the annual Multi Academy Trust Mass. Where possible, representatives attend additional events such as Lunchtime Masses at The Becket, or the Easter production, also at The Becket.

## *Diocesan Links*

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 so that we are part of our Diocesan family.

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