



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

At St. Mary's we live and learn, sharing God's love.

MISSION STATEMENT

'As a Catholic school community, we strive to live as a Christian family showing our love for God in the way we treat each other with dignity and respect and by promoting the development of each child as a unique individual.'

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims:

Collective worship within St Mary's offers opportunities

- to consider and celebrate the values of the Gospel
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- to experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- to encourage an awareness of, and a compassion for, the needs of the global community
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- to explore social, moral and spiritual values

Principles:

All acts of Collective Worship should be:

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils
- designed to actively engage pupils and elicit a response
- well planned and resourced
- memorable and enjoyable
- a sense of occasion
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions

Co-ordination

The R.E. subject leaders provide a termly Collective Worship planner. These themes link with the liturgical calendar of the church and explore the Gospels, festivals, beliefs and charity events. This ensures a whole school approach to Collective Worship with the Gospel each week as a focus, and its message being shared, enjoyed, discussed and lived out. This accounts for some of the worship each week. However, in addition to this, classes plan Collective Worship linked to relevant themes of their choice. This may be related to the work being done in Come and See lessons, it could be linked to the work being done in SEAL and values work or it could be on a theme that is pertinent to the children in the class e.g. forgiveness, friendship.

How Collective Worship is organised

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis for each class. Parents and carers are invited to these throughout the year when classes lead a 'Stay and Pray' session.



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Weekly Celebration Assembly

There are weekly celebration assemblies, one for EYFS/KS1 and one for KS2. The children gather together in the hall to celebrate their achievements that week. This is led by the Headteacher. Class certificates are given for the Headteacher's Award, SEAL/Values certificate, Writer of the Week and there are also mini mentions for each class.

Collective Worship in the Classroom

Collective Worship is timetabled, planned and led by staff and children. The time at which Collective Worship is held will vary in each class so as to ensure it is a meaningful and prayerful experience for everyone. Each act of worship is appropriately paced and lasts for a time suitable to the children's age and understanding (usually between 5 -12 minutes). Each Collective Worship provides a range of experiences, which includes using prayer, story, music, song, scripture, discussion, reflection, poems, displays, stillness and ICT.

Worship Focus

A special area is set aside in each classroom. A prayer table or prayer area acts as a focus for the pupils during times of worship. There are other focal points around the school, including in each department and in the school entrance. The RE leaders provide staff with a yearly programme for these areas, 'Living the Seasons of the Liturgical Year'. This is again in line with the liturgical calendar.

Resources

Classes are provided with a copy of "The Church's Story" and "God's Story" (however, these resources are now available online). Display cloths reflecting the liturgical colours are used accordingly in each class and throughout the school. Each worship area will have a cross, a candle and other icons/religious items. These areas are also enhanced by the children's own items which can include prayer cards and other mementos. All staff took part in a Collective Worship training session from the diocese in April 2017.

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Children's Liturgies in School

Whole school liturgies are prepared at different points in the school year including the beginning of the school year, Advent, Lent, May and at the end of the academic year. There is a yearly planner that ensures children across the school are involved in the planning and leading of these special acts of worship.

Children in Key Stage 2 celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent and Advent; however, all children experience a service of reconciliation as appropriate to their age. Each Christmas the EYFS and KS1 children perform concerts and a nativity that reflect on and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Later in the year at Easter, the LKS2 children perform an Easter play that depicts the Easter story.

Children's Liturgies at St Mary's Church

The parish are invited for the celebration of mass on Holy Days of Obligation and at other times such as Ash Wednesday and the celebration of the Harvest. At Christmas the whole school participates in the Schools Together Carol Service. In addition to this, we also have a school Carol service where we invite our families and members of the parish. Throughout the year the school participates in other parish liturgies and events such as the Nugent Care Mass.



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Sacramental Celebrations

The children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in Year 4 (with older children also being invited to participate if, for some reason, they haven't already) in line with the current practice within the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of *Collective Worship* will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils. We will see whether they are making progress in acquiring skill and abilities in organising and leading worship, particularly in their own year group. Each teacher will have the opportunity to evaluate the *Collective Worship* throughout the school and will be included in decisions about the future development.

Conclusion.

Prayer and worship is central to life at St. Mary's. Through clear aims and principles we hope to provide pupils with experiences of *Collective Worship* that are relevant, appropriate, meaningful and spiritually uplifting.

Reviewed April 2018. Next review April 2019.