

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



"Seeking Growth Together through Jesus"

Collective Worship and Prayer & Liturgy Policy

Date Reviewed: March 2021

Reviewed by: Anna Acton

Approved by: Headteacher

Date of next review: March 2023

School Mission Statement

At St John Vianney Primary School, prayer and liturgy is a fundamental part of daily school life. Through praying together we can fulfil our school motto 'Seeking growth together through Jesus'.

Our Mission Statement is:

We are made in the image of God, and through Jesus we seek to grow as a caring Catholic community in faith and love; knowledge and understanding; aspiration and independence; using the talents we have been given to achieve the best we can.

Worshipping together allows children to know and become the people God created them to be. Contributions from, pupils, staff, the parish priest and other visitors help to build up our Christian Community which is central to the Catholic ethos of the school.

Purpose of The Catholic Life of the School

Fit for Mission states that Catholic Education must help everyone within the school community to grow in faith; to make the most of every ability they have been given and; to achieve academic excellence and to prepare well for adult life in a modern and diverse society. (FfM?S,8)

At St John Vianney, we fully uphold this ethos in the experiences of Catholic worship that we give children. As stated in Fit for Mission; *'If we want to lead our young people into a real and living relationship with Jesus, we must first let Him lead us into the prayer at the heart of the Most Holy Trinity'* (FfM?S, 56)

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

It is also a statutory requirement that an inspection under section 48 must be carried out in Catholic School. It is the duty of the governing body of any voluntary or foundation school in England, which has been designated under section 69 (3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by the Secretary of State of having a religious character to secure that;

- the content of the school's collective worship are inspected under this section.

Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

- To make Christ known to the whole school community.

- To build a relationship with God and show reverence.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To enrich religious experience by ensuring that children are active participants in worshipping God.
- To become familiar and confident with Catholic customs and traditions.
- To recognise and embed current scripture themes.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles

All prayer and liturgy in school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its character.
- Engage children in the life of the Church.
- Offer a range of creative experiences in a variety of settings, such as different prayer styles including dance and music.
- Be age appropriate.

Content

The content of prayer and liturgy should:

- Follow the Church's calendar.
- Include scripture (Where possible the scripture of the day or Sunday's Gospel).
- Be varied, interesting and engaging.
- It includes a variety of experiences and responses (Music, song, art, candles, video, drama, meditation).
- Traditional church prayers are a regular part of prayer and liturgy and staff follow an age appropriate cycle.

Organisation

- All pupils participate in daily prayer, this includes:
 - Morning prayer
 - Grace before meals
 - End of day prayer
 - Prayer & liturgy classroom sessions alternate with collective worship.
- Each classroom has a worship station, which reflects the theme of the current liturgical season. It is also interactive and children have ownership of the resources used.
- The correct liturgical colour is used in worship areas.
- All teaching staff plan, lead and participate in weekly staff prayer and reflection.

- The staff room, hall and school entrance all have a worship area that is up to date and interactive.

Planning and Preparation

- In UKS2, worship is regularly prepared and led by pupils, following the teacher's example.
- In LKS2, there is a combination of child-led worship and teacher-led worship.
- In KS1, prayer & liturgy is teacher-led, but there is active participation from children.
- Each class across the school uses the same planning format for prayer and liturgy, which follows the model of 'Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth'.
- Staff record some of their Prayer & Liturgy sessions as digital photographs in exercise books.
- Each year group has a shared worship with parents that is timetabled for twice per year. These sessions are in the hall. **During the pandemic, parents are invited to join in with class workshops virtually.**

Parish Links

- The school works alongside the parish of St John Vianney and St Monica's. The Parish Priest Father Daniel Etienne is in regular communication with staff and children. At present, due to the pandemic, Father is unable to come into school to lead prayer and liturgy sessions. However, masses for KS2 do take place at church.
- Sunday masses are on a rota basis for each year group, though this is suspended during the pandemic.
- Children in Year 3 are invited to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. This is run directly through the parish as there is a requirement that participants are regular worshippers.
- Similarly, children in Year 6 are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is also delivered directly through the parish.

Following Church Teachings

- As a school we firmly uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church and strive to portray its teachings to the children on a daily basis. This is delivered through various Acts of Worship, the learning and singing of hymns and everyday prayer and liturgy.

- Each class in Years 3 to 6 engage in a termly mass in church, to which parents and parishioners are invited.
- Foundation Stage and KS1 classes engage in a termly Prayer & Liturgy session with the priest, where they begin to learn some mass responses, appropriate to the age of the child.
- Children have the opportunity to learn prayers, mass responses and hymns both within the classroom and in shared acts of collective worship.
- Children learn prayers appropriate to their age, in line with guidance from the 'Come and See' programme of study.
- In 2021, our school has adopted the Ten Ten programme of worship and prayer, which also runs alongside our HRSE programme.