

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

### Mission Statement

**St. Antony's School is part of the Roman Catholic community of the Holy Family, where Jesus Christ is our inspiration as we raise standards and aspirations for all of our children.**

### Rationale

It is the fundamental aim of St Antony's to assist pupils in their personal faith journey, by providing a range of varied quality spiritual experiences. These experiences are integral to the life and purpose of our school.

### Legal Requirements

At St Antony's we acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in class groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

### Aims of Prayer and Worship

- To communicate to children, the nearness and presence of God.
- To deepen the spiritual and moral experience of each child and enable teachers and children to grow spiritually together.
- To integrate pupils' experience of prayer and worship with their learning across the whole curriculum.

### Objectives

- To provide a range and depth of spiritual experiences which are vibrant, rich and varied.
- To provide opportunities for collective worship, both liturgical and non liturgical and individual prayer and reflection.
- To give children the opportunity to be involved in the formation and planning of prayerful experiences.
- To use the experiences and needs of the children, picking out the correct moment and time to deliver quality prayerful occasions.
- To recognise the special place and time for traditional prayers and to share these with our pupils.
- To develop and deepen the prayer life of teachers themselves and to give structure and support.
- To provide both children and staff with a living, worshipping community, thereby helping them to enter into the full life of the church.
- To celebrate the season of the Liturgical Year.
- To offer the school community opportunities to give praise and thanks to God.

### Organisation of Collective Worship

Every school day begins and ends in prayer, focusing on the needs of the individuals, the parish and global issues. The Prayer Leader in each class shares their prayer intention and welcomes others to

share theirs. Prayers are also said at lunch time. Spontaneous prayer is encouraged and modelled by staff throughout the school day.

### **School Worships**

The school gathers for whole school, Key Stage or class worships, as follows:

**Monday:** Whole School Worship which is sharing the Gospel from the Sunday.

**Tuesday:** School Chaplains led Celebration of the Word in classes.

**Wednesday:** Key Stage 2 Worship which follow the 'Statements to Live by'.

**Thursday:** Liturgical Music

**Friday:** Whole School Celebration Assembly

On the days where Key Stage Worships are in place, collective worship in class takes place. For example, Tuesdays is Key Stage 1 worship so collective worship in class takes place for Key Stage 2.

### **Masses and Celebrations**

Mass is celebrated regularly. The theme reflects key days in the liturgical year and school life. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. School Mass also enables us to celebrate as a 'home – school – parish' community.

### **School Worship and Prayer**

- Following consultation with the School Pupil Chaplaincy Team, a Chapel has been developed in the school. The purpose of this sacred space is to offer opportunities for quiet prayer and reflection.
- All staff are asked to develop a prayer table/corner and religious displays that can be used as a source for the inspiration of prayer.
- Children and staff pray together using both traditional and inspired prayers. These times occur at the beginning of the school day; before lunch and at the end of the day.
- Through our behaviour management system in place, children are able to reflect on their behaviour, which in turn can lead to a focus for prayer.
- Each class prepare and present a class assembly, which they share with the whole school and parents.
- The school supports the parish with the Sacramental Programme.
- The whole school shares in Holy week, with events such as Reconciliation and a Holy Week Liturgy/Play that all children are actively involved in.
- During seasons of the Church's year, particular prayers are shared e.g. Rosary in the month of October.

### **Child- Led Worship**

- The School Pupil Chaplaincy members take an active role in the prayer life of the school by preparing more opportunities for prayer through prayer focus throughout the school.
- The School Pupil Chaplaincy Team take a lead on prayer services in whole school worship and through class settings.
- Through the implementation of 'Come and See' each class plans and prepares a Collective worship which provides the children with the opportunity to lead prayer through drama, dance, meditation. The children have the opportunity to write their own prayers and to share prayer in a spontaneous manner within a worship.

### **Moral Development**

Prayer and collective worship help to develop good moral growth. Its aims are consistent with the teachings and values as given to us by Jesus. As such children are taught that each individual is a unique special creation of God and that for this reason all people, regardless of colour, belief or culture are worthy

of their love and respect. Each November we celebrate 'Friendship Week' where the children give praise to God's diverse world. Following on from this, children are taught that they should not judge and that reconciliation and forgiveness is a very important part of our faith. A fundamental belief of our Roman Catholic faith is that all people have the right to choose. In terms of our moral teaching we try to give our children the knowledge, values and attitudes they need to make the best choices. To aid the children to do this we must constantly work towards creating an atmosphere which encourages trust and confidence to be able to ask questions and search for answers together.

The 'Gardeners and Seeds' relationship between our Year 5 and Reception children has a unique and special value in our school community. This encourages all the children to share in the growth process involved in spiritual and moral development. A Year 5 child is paired with a Reception child and opportunities are given for them to learn, play together and have lunch together. This helps to develop a caring attitude and thus nurturing feelings of trust and responsibility.

### **Resources**

- Artefacts to support liturgies and prayer tables are collected by individual teachers.
- Examples of prayers and liturgy books are stored in the Chapel
- Pictures, reflections and other Prayer and Worship materials are stored in the Chapel
- On Staff shared there are folders with links to music, prayers to facilitate the delivery of worship.
- Cloths for prayer corners/tables have been distributed to each class which reflect the liturgical year.

### **Funding**

Money is allocated from the school budget to support prayer and worship throughout the school.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The school's provision of worship is regularly evaluated using Diocesan monitoring guidelines to assess its impact and quality.

### **Review January 2025**