



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy for St Ignatius' School**

### **St. Ignatius' Mission Statement**

Our Catholic School of St Ignatius puts the faith and uniqueness of Jesus Christ at the centre of our vision for our children. We all strive to treat every person with respect and understanding. We know that no matter who we are or what our backgrounds, in school we will all be listened to and valued. We are all children of God. We are totally committed to providing every opportunity for all of our children to develop intellectually, socially, physically and spiritually through a working partnership with home, parish and other local faith communities so that our children are prepared for further opportunities, responsibilities and experiences.

We work in an atmosphere of reconciliation where we all learn to forgive each other and to start each day afresh.

We acknowledge our great responsibility to help all our children on their individual faith journeys guided by our belief in the Word of God. The diversity of faiths in our school challenges us to teach our children-

- To live together
- Pray together
- And play together

**This is our school**

**This in our community**

**Here we all are, Lord !**

### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with the Father, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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 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.

### **The Place of prayer and liturgy in the Life of our school.**

We endorse the belief that prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the catholic tradition.

### **The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To be brought closer to God through reflection and prayer
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond and celebrate life
- To mark occasions as special
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared value
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

### **Principles**

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small and wherever possible help to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced (one minute for every year of a child's life – 8 yrs old = 8 mins approximately)

- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

In our school, the daily act of Prayer and Liturgy takes place at various times of the school day. Usually the children gather in class groups, although occasionally classes will join together. On a Monday the whole school assembly is based on the previous day's Gospel reading. On Wednesday and Friday afternoons the act of Worship is incorporated into the assemblies. Monthly, on Wednesday afternoons the school comes together to participate in either an end of R.E. topic celebration or a class led assembly (to which parents are invited).

Hymn Practice is an opportunity that we take to worship collectively, respectfully and joyfully.

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and Liturgy is planned;

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the wider curriculum. Scripture will be the focus of most acts of worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

### **Recording**

Prayer and liturgy is recorded:

- Through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- Powerpoint presentations
- In a file
- On class timetables

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

### **Resources**

Posters are in the RE resource cupboard (located in HT room) and each class has their own worship artefacts which contain various resources to help the children become more independent in planning Collective Worship.

### **The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

This role will be undertaken by the R.E. Subject Leader for the school, Mrs Roach

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy and is to be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Policy created Autumn 2016 by Mrs Sarah Roach

Policy passed by Governors

To be reviewed: Autumn 2017 – reviewed and accepted

To be reviewed Autumn 2018