



ST. ANNE'S
R.C. VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy



1.0 Overview

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 9th May 2024 and will be reviewed in the summer term 2025.

Our school motto: 'To know, love and serve God'

Our school **Mission Statement:** At St Anne's we strive to be an outstanding Catholic school in all we do, serving the community by working to improve the life chances of all pupils.

We endeavour to be a community of Service and Compassion. Following Christ's example of love, putting good works into action now so as to shape a better future.

We are a community of Ambition and Determination committed to achieving our best personally, socially and academically as a school.

We are a community of Respect and Equality where our differences are recognised and celebrated and all are included.

It is important to us as a Catholic school, that each child is allowed to flourish, and fulfil their potential recognising that we are all made in the image of God. It is our goal that all of our pupils' unique abilities are supported, encouraged and developed here at St Anne's.

Finally, we are a community of faith and worship, encouraging our pupils to become true disciples, who will leave St Anne's knowing, loving and serving God and each other.

Our SACRED Values

Service - The act of helping or doing something for somebody else without expecting something back in return
Ambition - To have high aspirations for yourself and others around you
Compassion - To show empathy for others by showing an understanding of their hardships
Respect - To show consideration for yourself and others around you through your words, actions and behaviour
Equality - To treat one another with respect taking into account others' disadvantages and privileges
Determination - To be resilient in the face of challenges and hardships

Our School Prayer

Lord,

Help us to listen to each other in friendship. Help us to care at home and at school, so that we might understand each other, support each other and grow together. Unite us all, adults and young people here at St Anne's, so that our world may be a better place. Amen.

2.0 Policy context

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

3.0 Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).



The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

4.0 Responsibility

Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

Executive Headteacher/ Head of School

The Executive Headteacher / Head of School, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate
- training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to.

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.



5.0 Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Overview:

- Prayer, liturgy & collective worship is systematically planned based on the liturgical calendar, incorporating our schools sacred values and wider events
- Collective Worship experiences include FT prayer, weekly assemblies, Advent/Lent services, Ash Wednesday, Welcome Mass and Year 11 leavers service
- Dedicated staff briefings & INSET are used to support the delivery of Collective Worship

Sacred Spaces:

- Our chapel forms a quiet reflective place to nurture spirituality which is used in form time and during RE classes
- During Advent and Lent religious artifacts are displayed in the entrance area, main hall and school chapel to highlight the liturgy season
- All classrooms and offices have a crucifix displayed

Leadership of Collective Worship:

- SLT/ELT/RE Team/Heads of Year model leading prayer and reflection in school
- Form tutors actively lead extended, gospel-based form prayer each Monday
- ALL members of staff lead reflection before every staff briefing on a rota basis
- Head of RE leads Advent/Lent liturgies with student participation

Weekly Collective Worship: Assemblies

- Weekly collective worship takes place in form and assembly
- All students sing our school hymn 'My Lighthouse' each week in assembly
- Sunday Gospel forms the basis of our prayer each week
- Assembly resources created are high quality and follow our whole school liturgical calendar which is based on the Sunday gospel readings
- Resources carefully designed by RE team to ensure that staff have all the relevant information and resources to deliver effective Collective Worship
- Prayer and liturgy are planned and designed systematically to ensure all students receive a broad experience of opportunities to connect with God
- The RE team observe and monitor Collective Worship in forms to support and feedback to teachers and supported some 1:1
- Training is regularly provided to staff who lack confidence with CW to make sure prayer is reflective and meaningful

Additional Collective Worship Opportunities

- Year 7 retreat days at the Coach House Church in the first weeks of term 1
- 'Christians in Schools' lead regular prayer sessions and the Lighthouse Group
- 'Good news ministries' lead prayer sessions during Advent and Lent
- Residential retreat to Castlerigg Manor



Advent Collective Worship Plan

- Crib, advent wreaths in reception, main hall and school chapel
- Advent Assemblies 'Advent Begins Assembly' led by HoY
- Monday gospel-based form prayer built around the advent Sunday gospels
- Daily form meditation in school chapel built around advent reflections and meditations
- The Lighthouse Group (Y7/8 every Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm) will have an Advent theme each week during December
- Advent/Christmas Liturgies on the last day of term will bring year groups together to pray and reflect on Advent and Christmas. Led by a group of Y11 students

Lent Collective Worship Plan

- Large Lenten Cross on main hall stage – Visual symbol of Lent
- Good News Ministries lead Lenten reflection/prayer sessions in RE classes for KS3
- Stations of Cross - RE Classes do the stations of the cross in the school chapel during RE
- Lighthouse Group (Tuesdays 3.15pm – 4.15pm) – Lent/Easter theme each week
- Lent Assemblies 'Resisting Temptation' & 'Lent' led by HoY
- Lenten Gospel form time prayer - Lenten Sunday Gospel theme with extra Lenten prayers included
- Lenten Form Meditation – Extra Lenten reflections, the stations of the cross, provided to support form tutors
- Lent/Easter Liturgies on the last day - Year group Lent/Easter liturgies on the last day during form time, p1 and p2. Year 10 students will lead the liturgies.

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

