



'a small school with a big heart'

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

The mission at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Claughton is to;

**Guide all on their journey of faith,
Nurture a love of learning,
Encourage happiness, confidence and personal fulfilment and
Support all in achieving their full potential.**

As a Catholic school and worshipping community, rooted firmly in a Christ-centred approach and based on Gospel values, we aim:

- to help parents in the education and formation of their children in accordance with the promises made at Baptism, when their children were first welcomed into the family of the Church.
- to help each child to make the most of his/her God-given talents.
- to provide equality of opportunity and to engender an awareness and respect for diversity in the wider community, by encouraging involvement within that community.

As a Catholic, Christian Community committed to the education of our children, daily worship naturally forms an integral part of school life.

Whilst there are obvious links with curriculum Religious Education, there is a clear timetable for Prayer and Worship as distinct from classroom RE.

As part of the public sector, we are also bound by the statutory requirement of a daily act of worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Act.

Prayer and Worship. What?

The worship that takes place in school is ***Collective Worship***.

Worship in a Catholic school is far more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship and thus individual spiritual development.

Worship 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 provides their only experience of Church.
- those who may have experience of other Christian traditions or faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship is an *activity or experience*:

- to which all can contribute.
- from which all can gain.

Catholic Collective worship will always have Christ at its heart reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church.

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you"
Matthew. 7: 7

Prayer and Worship. Why?

In Prayer and Worship we **PRAISE, ASK** and **THANK**.

[We recognise who we are: a Faith Community in the Home, the School and the Parish.](#)

Prayer and Worship focuses on life as a whole school, as a community. It expresses what the school values. It is both religious and educational; a learning and worshipping experience.

Through Collective Worship, opportunities are provided for both children and staff to come together to worship God and specifically:

- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To reflect on personal belief.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes.
- To mark as special.
- To wonder at.
- To give worth to.
- To build a firm foundation for liturgical awareness.
- To take time out for reflection.
- To enrich the spiritual dimension for all, at an appropriate level of development.
- To develop and enhance a community spirit.
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values base.

Prayer and Worship. Who?

Governors

Responsibility lies with the Governing Body, to approve a Policy for Prayer and Worship in the school, after consultation with the Headteacher.

Headteacher.

The Headteacher's role is to ensure that collective worship is provided for each child every day.

Children.

All children have an entitlement to take part in a daily act of worship.

Our pupils lead Worship once a week for the whole school. The children use a planning sheet (Gather, Listen, Respond and Go forth) and follow the theme for the term.

Teachers.

All Staff have a duty to assist in the planning and delivery of meaningful acts of worship.

Teachers lead worship every week following the Liturgical Calendar.

Parents.

Parents have a focal supportive role to play and example to set and are encouraged to participate in school collective worship.

Parish Priest and wider Faith Community.

The active participation of the Parish Priest and the Parish community in supporting aspects of Collective Worship is acknowledged by all. He says Mass in school and at church.

Prayer and Worship. When?

Legislation does not require that Prayer and Worship takes place at a specific time. It does not necessarily have to occur at the beginning of the day, but as a matter of course all sessions begin with a short prayer, whatever other acts of worship may be experienced during that day.

The underlying philosophy of this policy is that the children are encouraged to acknowledge that:

- ❑ ***We can pray, anytime, anywhere, about anything.***

Prayer and Worship is therefore, to be viewed as much broader than just formal acts of collective worship.

There is scope during the day for brief moments of reflection, which arise in connection with what the children are doing, for example, reading a story, a poem or within class discussions.

Many of these will be provided by the spontaneous reaction of children and staff to the wonder of God's creation.

***"I will bless the Lord at all time; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
O magnify the Lord with me And let us exalt His name together!"
[Psalm 34:1,3]***

Prayer and Worship. How?

Our aim is always to provide the children with a variety of meaningful experiences.

Acts of Worship will therefore take place in many forms, including some of the following aspects:

- ❖ they can be led by the children, staff or visitors.
- ❖ they can be offered by a class, key stage, mixed group or the whole school.
- ❖ they can use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers both prepared and spontaneous, responses, music, songs, hymns, dance, drama, poetry, readings both Biblical and secular, psalms and visual images.
- ❖ they can provide a focus using artefacts, candles, lighting and symbols.

- ❖ they can ensure that the theme, delivery, focus, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range and abilities of the children.
- ❖ they can set an appropriate atmosphere including a sense of reverence, order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- ❖ they can encourage the active participation of all present and support the overall precept of Inclusion, where all are seen to be valued and cared for.

Prayer and Worship. Where?

As a rule all main acts of Prayer and Worship will take place within the School premises or in Church.

In the Classroom.

"Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them."

[Matthew 18 : 10]

A class-based act of worship can provide an opportunity for teachers and their children to share a unique experience together. Children can be involved in a pro-active way.

In the School Hall.

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

Sing the glory of his name;

Give to him glorious praise!"

[Psalm 66:1-2]

The school hall can be transformed into a place of worship very simply by providing a focal point, based on symbol and imagery linked to the main theme, alongside the provision of music for reflection. The hall can be made to feel special by the example set by staff and older children's entry and exit.

In Church.

"Praise God in His holy place."

[Psalm 150:1]

Opportunities are provided for children to attend Holy Mass with the Parish family such as on Holy Days.

Children are reminded of the opportunity to attend Mass.

Year 3 children undertake the Initiation Programme as laid down by the Lancaster Diocese.

In the Open

"Heaven and earth are full of your glory."

[Roman Missal]

Acts of worship are occasionally held in the open air in the school grounds.

Prayer and Worship. Resources.

In relation to the provision of relevant suitable resources to support the delivery of this Prayer and Worship Policy, future identified areas of need will also be provided for.

A variety of books, symbols, candles, coloured cloths, visual imagery and musical resources are being steadily built up.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)***

Prayer and Worship. Evaluation

In line with the School Mission Statement all staff within St. Mary's school are constantly striving to evaluate the intended impact of their actions.

This is no less true in the area of Prayer and Worship. In line with good practice Acts of Worship are planned, recorded and evaluated.

Planning :

- ❑ takes place in consultation with all appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies.
- ❑ takes into account the Church's Liturgical Year, significant dates and Saints days.
- ❑ takes into account the need for flexibility to respond to the changing situations within the school and wider community.

Record Keeping:

- ❑ takes place to keep a note of themes, leaders, groupings and resources.
- ❑ can also take place through displays, evidence from children's contributions including prayers and reflections, and photographs.

Evaluation:

- ❑ takes place regularly by all involved staff and is recorded in the worship file. The co-ordinator uses this to inform future development.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Claughton Collective Worship Timetable

	Groups	Times	Classroom	Whole School	Classroom
Monday	Whole School Worship	9.05am- 9.20am	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	Whole School Worship	10.20am- 10.45am	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	Class 1 (FS/KS1) Class 2 (KS2) Worship	9.05am- 9.10am	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Evening Prayer
Thursday	Child Led Whole School Worship	10.20am- 10.45am	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Evening Prayer
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly	3.10pm- 3.30pm	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Whole School Evening Prayer