

Collective Worship policy

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy



**St Ralph
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Approved by:	St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy	Date: May 2023
Last reviewed on:	December 2023	
Next review due by:	December 2025	

Collective Worship policy

This policy operates in line with our school mission, Catholic ethos and best safeguarding practice. St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

SCHOOL MOTTO

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam
For the greater glory of God

VISION STATEMENT

We live and learn by journeying with Jesus for the greater glory of god.

MISSION STATEMENT

As Parents, Staff and Governors

"We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We are prophets of a future not our own." (Oscar Romero)

Inspired by the light of our Catholic Christian Faith, our school primarily aims to develop the 'whole' child within a Christian community.

- As children of God we value and respect each other
- We love Jesus and through our relationships with others we share this love
- We work in partnership with home and the parishes of St. Mary's and Holy Spirit
- We support and encourage everybody to achieve their best in work and play
- We celebrate whatever is good
- We say sorry, support and forgive each other as Jesus showed us
- We prepare for and share the sacraments
- We respect other people's beliefs and cultures
- We support those in need

In light of our school mission statement, we believe that the prayer and worship life of our school community is central to all we do.

Through liturgy and worship we aim to:

- foster an understanding of what it means to belong to a Catholic community;
- provide opportunities for enhancing spiritual growth and personal development through prayer and reflection;
- encourage the development of a personal relationship with God;
- provide experiences of sharing values and celebrating significant events in the lives of individuals and the community;
- develop knowledge of and experience seasons within the Church's year;
- develop knowledge and understanding of scripture;
- develop and celebrate skills of creativity.

What is Liturgy? Liturgy is:

- a communal act in which we praise and worship God
 - the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives
 - a telling of the story of Christ and his Church
 - action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell
- Participating in liturgy forms our habits because we are ritual people and learn through repetition and copying. In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer, through word and gesture, silence and stillness. The purpose of adapting liturgy for pupils is to lead them into full, conscious and active participation in the wider liturgy of the Church.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP AT ST MARY'S

Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and simplicity. Liturgy touches our lives in such a way that we are renewed in our mission. Within St. Mary's, liturgy and worship provide opportunities for us to come together to celebrate and share.

Time for worship is in addition to the 10% curriculum time for classroom Religious Education, as required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

DAILY PRAYER

A daily experience of prayer in classroom, assembly or elsewhere is much more than just a legal requirement. It should be at the heart of every school. It is a centre to which many of the achievements and challenges of daily life can be brought and from which strength and purpose can be taken. At this centre is the person of Jesus, the Son of God.

Daily prayer helps make Jesus real for all in the school a friend whom they can trust and relate to, one who is a guide, and one to whom they can turn in time of need. Prayer within the classroom should take place before and after lunch, at the start and end of the day. The community must be able to pray as well as recite prayers together. Pupils should learn, and experience, all forms of prayer so that they can adore, give praise and thanks, express sorrow to God on their own behalf and on behalf of others, as well as offer prayers of petition and intercession.

Each class should provide a prayer focus within their room, in the form of a display, collection of artefacts, bible and candle etc. where the children can focus during times of class prayer or private reflection during the day. Liturgy boxes in each classroom provide a range of resources to enhance class prayer times.

While it is important that children should learn *to pray*, there is always a place for *learning prayers* that can be recited together. The RE curriculum plays an important role by providing opportunities to teach pupils about prayer, and also for them to learn prayers.

ADULT PRAYER

"One of the distinctive features of the Catholic school is that it proclaims itself as a faith community ... as part of their life as a faith community, Catholic schools are committed to communal prayer. There is an expectation that all teachers will play an active part in this."

All staff meetings and meetings of the Governing Body begin with a prayer or reflection providing an opportunity to be still and quiet.

During the school day, adults engage in personal prayer and worship, not only deepening their own spirituality, but modeling positive behaviour for the children.

TIMETABLE FOR WORSHIP

	OPPORTUNITY FOR WORSHIP	LEADER	FORMAT
MONDAY	Whole School Liturgy	Head Teacher	Statement To Live By (STLB)
TUESDAY	Class Prayers	Class Teacher	Connected to STLB
WEDNESDAY	Whole School Liturgy	Pupil led – by class rota	Based on learning in 'Come and See' scheme (C&S)
	At home	Families	Wednesday Word leaflet distributed for pupils to take home (WW)
THURSDAY	Class Liturgy	Pupil led	Based on WW
FRIDAY	Whole school Celebration Assembly – open to parents and visitors	Head Teacher	Hymn, Prayer, Class House Group Certificates, news, successes
Lent and Advent	KS2 Service of Reconciliation followed by opportunity for individual confessions (time with Fr John for non-Catholics)	Fr John - with preparation from within the school community	Hymn, sharing of theme, bible reading, prayer, mission
Holy Mass	In school at the beginning and end of year, Ash Wed, special occasions for the whole school	Fr John - with preparation from within the school community	Prayer Group, Y6 Helping Hands and classes prepare with Head Teacher
	In school once per year for each class from Y3-Y6.	Fr John - pupil led preparation	Pupil preparation with Class Teacher
	In church each Friday morning with the parish, each class from Nursery to Y6 - rota	Fr John & parish	Parish mass