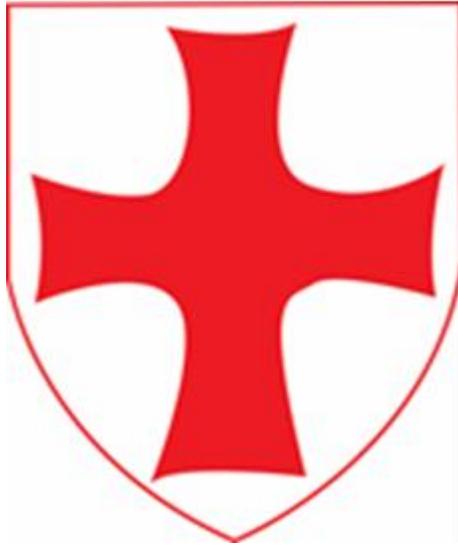


St. Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School



WORSHIP & PRAYER POLICY

Approved by staff on: 17th October 2019

Adopted by governors on: 2nd December 2019

*Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell we work hard,
aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness*



Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create an educating Christian community which reflects the values of the Gospel within the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church;

- a community which will develop the whole person
- a community which works closely with parents and parish
- a community which values each child as a unique individual with particular gifts and needs
- a forward-looking community which serves its members and the wider society
- a community in which we will lead those in our care to grow in their faith whilst benefiting from an enriching education.



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Worship & Prayer Policy

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

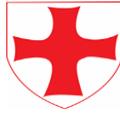
Collective worship in our school seeks to set the individual within the context of the realm of the spiritual. It seeks to give expression to the living relationship between God and the worshipping community and between individuals within the community. Collective worship is always linked to the school's mission statement. It may be a collective gathering of the whole school, Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 separately, individual or groups of classes.

It therefore involves us gathering to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, our local community and our world as gifts from God. Collective worship provides time for reflection on people's own experiences, a time to recognize and celebrate the values and beliefs of the whole community, both in school and the wider world. At St Robert Southwell School, we aim to celebrate the highest aspirations and achievements of our community.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School:

We endorse the belief that Collective 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 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



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We continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer is not confined to an act of worship. Children pray in the morning, before lunch and in the evening.

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time 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.



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In order to do this, our celebrations are:

- Kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Enriching using music and scripture

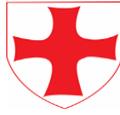
Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assemblies are not the same things, but it is usual in our school for an act of worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. In our school every assembly incorporates an act of worship that aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding.

The head teacher and RE leader take a prominent role in leading collective worship and assemblies. A wide variety of pupil-led worship is actively encouraged. Parents, governors, faith community representatives and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation. The process of worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story drama, music, poetry etc. It takes place through class assemblies and Masses as well as adult-led worship time.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday	Whole school values and learning focused worship
Tuesday	KS1 & KS2 class based collective worship
Wednesday	Class based assemblies linked to themes
Thursday	Whole school collective worship based on liturgical year & Gospel values
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly/collective worship led by the Headteacher



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Planning

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, *The way, the Truth and the Life*, key liturgical and non-liturgical dates as well as the RE Curriculum Directory.

- Plans are based on each year group's long-term planning for liturgies.
- Scripture is the focus for most acts of worship
- It relates to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- We aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the worship
- Classroom feedback from pupils; written and verbal
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school as well as to one another
- Feedback from staff.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored within prayer boxes in each classroom and the old prayer room. They are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning, including the Cafod website.



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Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The celebrations take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- The whole school also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation and other liturgically important days, e.g. Ash Wednesday, if they occur in school time. We attend St. Sebastian & St. Pancreas parish church or masses are celebrated in school.

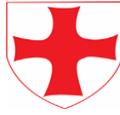
Children are encouraged to participate in special Family Sunday Masses throughout the year. Children are prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist in the Parish and attend individual Reconciliation in school. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Parish Priest for the children to participate in.

Prayer

Prayer is intrinsic and inherent to both collective worship and assemblies. Our school has a very active approach to prayer and ample opportunities are provided for praying as a “Corporate” body and as individuals. Prayers are said on a daily basis within classes. Each class has a designated area set aside which includes a prayer table and religious artefacts. The liturgies planned within our school involve the entire school community both in the planning and experiencing stage. The opportunity for reflection is a significant element in our liturgies.

The children learn to pray by observation, by learning from adults, by trying out words for themselves, by trying the lilting words of others, but most of all by being allowed to discover that God is and, what is more, that in God’s sight they matter tremendously. They are so special to God that they are his children, loved without limit.

We believe as a school that out of that relationship of trust and love, prayer may grow slowly, hesitantly, with repetition, with humour and with honesty. The essence of our relationship with God is that it is enfolded in mystery. It is holy, sacred, profound, glorious, beyond comprehension – and certainly beyond measurement.



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How do we encourage children in prayer?

We offer children the opportunity to pray in silence, aloud or in writing. However, we do not stop there. We help our pupils to paint a prayer or take a photograph that is in itself a prayer of adoration, thanksgiving and supplication. As a staff we encourage the use of the senses in worship. There is no single prayer (unless it is the Lord's Prayer) that can convey the whole truth of the relationship between God and ourselves; and just as our ordinary human relationships are built on a mixture of the routine and the exceptional, so should be our relationship with God. We seek through prayer, to help children to become aware of the love God has for them, and thereby enable them to grow in their relationships with God and with rest of humanity, and to discover that although prayer often feels as though we are moving towards God, in truth it is God who comes to us.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors.

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Date:

Signed: *F. Montgomery*

Date: