



## **St Herbert's RC Primary School**

# **PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY**

Approved by Governors on: 10.03.2021

Date to be reviewed: Spring 2024

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body: *P Devine (Chair)*

# **St Herbert's RC Primary School**

## **Prayer and Worship Policy**

This policy is set within the context of the School Mission Statement:

*"Strong in Faith, Hope and Love, for the Common Good"*

and the School Ethos:

*"By loving one another as God loves us, we can achieve spiritually and academically"*

***Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.  
(Jeremiah 29:12)***

### **Rationale**

St Herbert's School is a family where Christ is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is made in the image and likeness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and, therefore, everyone is loved, respected, cared for and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Prayer and Collective Worship is an integral part of school life where all our school family is given opportunities to deepen their relationship with God.

As a Catholic school we are called to witness as a worshipping community. Worship, as one of the 5Ws is at the very heart of our school community and enriches our religious experience. The nature of this worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

At St. Herbert's School different faiths are respected and Collective Worship is inclusive.

### **Aims**

The aims of Collective Prayer and Worship in our school aims are to:

- Place worship at the centre of the children's lives and in its rightful place in the curriculum. As such it will be planned like any other subject.
- Develop children's awareness of God's presence in their lives and of His love for them.
- Form a loving relationship with God our Father, as Creator, God the Son, as Brother and God the Holy Spirit, as Friend and contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Foster spiritual dialogue with God by building upon the children's natural spontaneous expression of joy, wonder, care, concern, thanks, devotion, sorrow, sadness, anger, fear etc. awakened through the children's growing awareness of themselves, others and their world.
- Support children to give glory and praise to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit through a range of opportunities given to them, so that they will experience many different forms of

praying which include: formal prayers, which are part of the Catholic tradition, informal prayers, singing, drama, silent prayers and spontaneous prayer.

- Give children a positive liturgical experience, appropriate to their age, ability and background.
- Celebrate the major events of the Liturgical Calendar.
- Experience a sense of belonging to a small community which is part of a larger community.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Make time to 'wonder at', to 'come to terms with', 'give worth to' and celebrate achievements.

To fulfil these aims, the content and delivery is planned using the following:

- Reference to the Church's seasons.
- Ten Ten Prayer and Worship Resources
- CAFOD Prayer and Worship Planner for Children.
- Feast days and significant dates.
- Scripture as a focus in most acts of worship.
- Age appropriate prayers and hymns.
- Pupil involvement in preparation, organisation and leadership, appropriate to their age and ability.

## **Organisation**

Every child participates in daily worship in some form:

### **Assemblies**

- Twice a week we gather, as a whole school, and combine acts of worship with assembly to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework and children's achievements and attendance are celebrated.
- Once a year, each year group leads an assembly to which parents are invited.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

- When children do not participate in a whole school or Key Stage assembly, Prayer and Worship takes place in every class.
- Through the use of the CAFOD Prayer and Worship resources, some sessions are child led.
- The GIFT team often lead reflection tasks throughout the school, this allows them to be seen as faith leaders by their peers.
- Once a year the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes participate in a Prayer and Worship celebration with the Parish Priest.

- Devotional reflections are held at the beginning of each Staff Inset Day.

### Mass

- The whole school attends Mass in the Parish Church at the beginning and at the end of each term. In addition, Mass is shared on Holy Days of obligation and special feast days.
- Once a year each Key Stage 2 class celebrates Mass, in the school chapel, with the Parish Priest. Parishioners are invited to participate.

### Monitoring and Review

- Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and RE Coordinator. The RE Coordinator also liaises with the RE Governor who has a responsibility to monitor Collective Worship in the school.
- At each Full Governing Body meeting the RE Coordinator presents a report on the Catholic Life of the school so the governors are fully informed of any developments.

### Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy.

All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit For This Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Assessment Data	Name of child Assessment data	To monitor progress and plan for improvement.	Teaching Staff	Held digitally on Google teamdrives.	Held on digital file throughout the child's time at the school.  Passed onto new school when moving.

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has few/No data compliance requirements	Has a moderate level of data compliance requirements	Has a high level of data compliance requirements
✓		

