



# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

*At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, we seek to create a unique and enabling community whereby children and staff are encouraged to journey beyond their expectations – academically, socially and spiritually – within a culture based on Gospel Values.*

This statement has been shortened to a child friendly phrase –

***'To Love, Live and Learn as Jesus Taught Us'***

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

***'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them'*** (Matt.18:20)

### **I AIMS**

Collective Worship is central to school life at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary school. We aim to offer a variety of forms of worship on a daily basis; suited to the age and development of the pupils and we seek to encourage them to share in planning and participation.

#### **We aim to help children to:**

- explore the meaning of celebration which marks the growth and development of every human being
- understand that spiritual growth is rooted in the church's sacramental life which is expressed in sign and symbol throughout the Liturgical year
- know that the Sacraments are central to the lives of Catholics
- reflect on the importance of prayer in the life of the Catholic community
- become comfortable with private prayer and familiar with 'formal' prayers and responses
- develop a knowledge and understanding of prayer in other faiths

### **II PRAYER**

Prayer is essentially a deeply personal communication with God who is seen as a friend and listener. Helping children to pray is a fostering of that communication. To do so, parents, teachers and priests walk with the children on their journey in faith and give witness to their own deep and special relationship with God.

Being able to pray in our community is central to our mission. Our children experience and explore a variety of methods of prayer, such as:

- Traditional learned prayer in a group setting
- Formal/informal prayer appropriate to the Liturgical cycle
- Prayer from scripture
- Individual, quiet prayer
- Spontaneous group prayer
- Prayer using images, music, art, nature, technology
- Silent group meditation
- Prayer in song
- Prayer for others (petitionary prayer)
- Imaginative prayer
- Prayer using movement/gestures

Prayer should be a real turning to God for all situations in the classroom. There is, of course, a need for the basic formal prayers, such as 'The Sign of the Cross' and the 'Lord's Prayer' but the key priority is to encourage the children to be comfortable in prayer and to see prayer opportunities as natural. Later when prayer is seen as being integrated into each day, more formal ways of praying can be encouraged so that each pupil can explore and develop ways of praying that are suited to their personality and needs. Traditional prayers should be taught to all pupils, however, we are guided by Clifton Diocese' Progression of Prayer and Liturgical development through the school. This can be found on our school website.

Prayer is an essential part in the life of the adults in the community. Staff meetings, INSET days, as well as Governor meetings start with a prayer.

The school has compiled its own **School Prayer Book** which is used as a resource to support Collective Worship and other prayer opportunities, as well as the RE curriculum.

*In addition, the School holds a Collective Worship Manual centrally in the school to aid planning and recording Collective Worship opportunities.*

### **III COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that Collective Worship at Our Lady of Lourdes aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To learn through the four 'Languages' of religious literacy; doctrine, story, liturgy and morality and to learn and love traditional Catholic prayers
- To understand that prayer also comes in many forms including Meditation
- To know and be familiar and confident with responses in liturgy, including the Mass
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and the reality of God with us
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values and virtues
- To enrich and widen religious experience in our own Faith and respect other faiths
- To reinforce positive attitudes through living and sharing the Gospel
- To participate fully to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to' so developing the children's experiences in Awe and Wonder through the Mysteries of God.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, all children are welcomed to participate in daily worship. We gather together at Masses, liturgies, and through whole-school and in-class worship.

Our collective worship is based on the 4-part structure:

- **Gather**
- **Respond**
- \* **Word (Listen)**
- \* **Go Forth / Mission**

Our Catholic faith is central to day to day life of our school and all aspects of the curriculum, and pupils are encouraged to recognise the importance of their faith and they respond to all forms of liturgy and collective worship with respect and reverence. We have a rich liturgical life in that the experiences we provide are wide ranging and take place in school, out of school, in Church and the wider community, and engage and involve pupils, parents, staff, governors and the parish.

#### ***Whole School Collective Worship***

These worship times are led by the Head teacher or Deputy who will base the content on the Sunday's Gospel or Liturgical Feast. They are planned to be interactive in an attempt to engage pupils across Key Stages. An altar is set up, with the colour of the cloth reflecting the time of the Liturgical year, candles, crucifix and flowers. Liturgical or meditative music is also used to help create an appropriate atmosphere. Prayers of the Faithful are focused on the needs or thanksgiving from our school community (illness, exams, new birth, death etc.) as well as local, national and global intentions. This celebration is seen as an offering to God and a relevant spiritual experience.

### ***Key Stage Collective Worship***

Led by the class teachers on a rota basis, who will focus on exploring a termly Gospel Value. A variety of resources can be used to support this, including 'Fruits and Shoots', 'Faith Map' as well as CAFOD resources.

### ***Celebration Assemblies***

An opportunity to explore Saints days, key themes in the Church, of national or global significance, as well as celebrate class and individual pupil achievements in or out of school. Links with the community – local, national or international are also made and celebrated in this forum eg. charity fundraising, local community support, local tournaments etc.

Parents are invited and encouraged to see this as a **celebration** rather than **performance**.

### ***Class Reflection***

Class teachers may use reflection and meditation time as a form of class prayer and worship. Children learn to be comfortable in silence and quiet times, as well as using formal and spontaneous prayer, drama and music / singing. Staff may use CAFD resources to support key campaigns such as 'Fratelli Tutti' or 'Laudato Si', as well as the 'Mark Ten' Resource from the Ten Ten Company.

### ***Hymn Practice***

The school arranges weekly hymn practice as an opportunity to learn Mass responses, new hymns and religious music to celebrate the Liturgical year. Hymns are recognised as another form of prayer.

### ***Masses***

We celebrate Mass together as a whole school. There is always a Mass at the start of academic year as well as on all Holy Days of Obligation that falls within school time. Although some Holy Days have recently 'rolled over' to be celebrated at the weekend Mass, as a school and parish, we are committed to offering pupils the opportunity to celebrate feast days in the school community. Year groups or the Chaplaincy team take turns to lead the whole school Mass through readings, singing, writing bidding prayers, movement reflecting the readings, serving or taking part in the offertory procession. We expect children to learn and know the responses of the Mass so that they can take a fuller part this way.

The parish priest makes timetabled visits to each class throughout the year to support and explore the RE unit or other issues arising. In the Spring Term class Masses are celebrated to an agreed rota organised by the RE Subject leader with the parish priests. Masses and Liturgies are held in the church. Parents and parishioners are invited by the children to take part in all of these celebrations.

### ***Worship Central to Celebrating School Life***

As part of the Reception Induction programme for new parents and pupils we celebrate the children's settling in and initial successes with a short service of reflection for parents.

We celebrate 'Going Forth' with the First Holy Communicants from the parish who feed our school.

We celebrate Mass and a Leavers' Assembly with Year 6 at the end of the school year.

### ***Devotions***

As well as learning about the events and Church traditions associated with the Liturgical year in class, children are also able to attend lunchtime devotions if they wish:-

**Rosary - October and May**

**Stations of the Cross – Lent**

**Remembrance Devotions – November**

**Advent Reflections**

These sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime for the period, in the school. They are well attended by the children and staff.

### **Reconciliation Opportunities**

We have a collective Reconciliation service in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 during Advent and Lent with the opportunity for individual Confession for children who have made their First Communion. The local parish priest celebrate these occasions with us.

### **Retreat Opportunities**

Year 5 are offered the chance to take part in a weekend activity and religious retreat at Kilve Court in Somerset, along with pupils and staff from the Camino Partnership – St. Mary's Bath, St. John's Bath, St. Benedict's Midsomer Norton and St. Patrick's, Corsham. The Headteacher of OLOL leads the retreat weekend.

### **Worship in Lockdown**

During the COVID pandemic, the school continued to deliver daily Worship opportunities virtually via Zoom and Google Classroom. Senior Leaders and class teacher were able to deliver Collective Worship opportunities across and between OLOL and Saint Patrick's in Corsham, which enabled us to maintain a sense of community whilst being physically restricted by isolation.

### **Chaplaincy**

The school has adapted the Diocesan Leaders in faith programme to include Reception and Key Stage 1 Pupils. 'Footsteps in Faith' is a whole school approach to chaplaincy – where every child is given opportunities to grow and nurture their personal relationship with God, whilst actively contributing to the Prayer and Spiritual Life of the school. Children are encouraged to work towards achieving a series of challenges which lead to successfully receiving a Footsteps badge which is worn on their uniform.

In addition, pupils from Key Stage 2 apply to be part of the pupil chaplaincy team who's brief can be to explore and create prayer and worship opportunities in school and take the lead in preparing for whole school Masses, liturgies as well as creating reflection tables and corners around the school.

As part of the Mission Statement, the school is committed to offering opportunities of reflection and contemplation to all its members.

*Whilst all parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship, the school will seek to enter into discussions to ascertain the reasons for the request, and determine strategies to work around this for the benefit of the child, on the basis of the schools mission for tolerance and mutual respect.*

## **IV EVALUATION**

'Reflection and Contemplation' is identified in '**Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges**' (Bishops' Conference doc.) as a discrete aspect, therefore there can be no formal, summative assessment of a child's ability and understanding of worship. However, the document levels inform planning in the provision of opportunities for growth in reflection and contemplation.

Quality of provision for Reflection and Worship opportunities is moderated by the RE Subject Leader and Leadership team and reported to the Governing Body.

A range of strategies will be used to evaluate the impact and quality of the school's collective worship. Such strategies will be:

- Use of parent and pupil questionnaires
- Use of pupil conferencing
- Informal discussions during and after collective worship with parents and pupils.
- Overall parish and parental attendance
- Behaviour and respect shown by pupils during worships

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Head teacher

Date: September 2021

Review: September 2022