

# St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024
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*'Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise. Come let us bow down and worship him'*  
(Psalm 95: 1-3, 6)

## **Introduction to Prayer and liturgy (Collective Worship) here at St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School**

Here at St Vincent's, school prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are central to the life of our school and our catholic nature. These allow our pupils and staff to come together to worship God. Whilst we respect the diversity of belief in the world and are committed to the teaching of other faiths, we are dedicated to creating a school that is Christ-centred in character. We encourage the children to experience worship and liturgical celebrations in a relevant and meaningful manner. Our Prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share it.

## **Mission Statement**

*'We Live, Love and Learn With Christ.'*

As stated in our mission statement, our school is centered on incorporating the teachings and principles of Jesus Christ into every aspect of life. This implies following Christ's example in everyday life, embodying his teachings, and striving to live a life of faith, kindness, and service to others. Learning with Christ signifies a continuous journey of spiritual growth and learning, seeking wisdom and guidance from Christ's teachings in the Bible, applying these lessons to better oneself and the community. This means allowing children opportunities to develop and deepen their own relationships with God through daily acts of prayer and worship.

## **Legal requirements**

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we believe that it is much more than a legal requirement, it is central to the life of our school and is essential in developing the spiritual development. Where parents request it, pupils may be withdrawn from the Prayer and liturgy and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

## **Our aims and objectives for Prayer and liturgy**

Through our prayer and liturgy, we aim to:

- Ensure that each day all pupils and staff have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection which is in lines with our shared Catholic faith and Gospel values.
- Allow our pupils to develop and deepen their own relationships with God.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.

- Allow our pupils the opportunity to reflect upon their own personal beliefs and to respond and celebrate life.
- To ensure that strong links are made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Ensure that our Prayer and liturgy will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- That a strong moral, reflective and social ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
- That opportunities will exist throughout the year whereby our worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
- That Prayer and liturgy will contribute to our school's community cohesion and will promote children's spiritual, social, intellectual and moral development. They will allow our children to develop qualities like tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

### **Our strategies for Prayer and liturgy**

- On some occasions the school will meet collectively to worship and, on other occasions in different groupings. Monday will be a whole school assembly, Tuesday is Hymn Practice and Friday is Celebration Assembly.
- Every Wednesday we have Celebration of the Word. On some occasions Celebration of the Word will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be led by children in small groups. At other times it will be a whole class Celebration of the Word led by the children which will take place in the hall for the rest of the school and parents.
- Our Spiritual leaders lead the Rosary each Tuesday morning in the hall, which children and parents are welcome to attend.
- Pupils will have an opportunity to say grace before meals and prayers of thanks at the start and end of each day.
- Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
- During Staff briefing each morning, staff gather together for worship and an opportunity to share intentions and prayers.
- Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship dependent upon age and prayer development.
- On at least one occasion during the year, the parents from each class will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school known as the family assembly.
- Occasionally, visitors and guests will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
- On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals such as. Christmas and Easter in lines with our Catholic/Christian faith.
- St Vincent's staff and governors will liaise with the Diocese of Southwark to keep updated with training needs and/or developing Ecumenical matters which may affect our work in this area.

## **Planning and content**

Theme based guidance centred around 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' topics, the school values, Catholic Social Teaching principles and the liturgical calendar is provided to all teachers to aid with planning. Teachers are also encouraged to make judgements as to whether other worships may be necessary to acknowledge local, national and world events. Guidance provided by Cafod is used to effectively plan Prayer and liturgy. This involves:

**Preparation:** When, where, who, what? How will the classroom be prepared? What resources will be needed?

**Gather:** How will the children gather? Where will the worship take place? Will there be music? How will the children settle and show that they are ready?

**Listen:** What scripture will be used? How does this scripture link to the theme? How will the scripture be displayed for the children to see and share together? Is time given for the children to silently reflect?

**Respond:** What will the children do? Will they share a prayer? Reflect? Sing a hymn? Perform some symbolic action?

**Go Forth:** What will the children's mission be to go away with following the word of God?

## **Outcomes of Prayer and liturgy**

- That the children of St Vincent's will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship.
- They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection.
- They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities.
- Through Prayer and liturgy learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.
- Each day the spiritual aim of our mission statement will be delivered through Prayer and liturgy so that the children experience first-hand "Successful learning within a Christ-Centred Community".

## **Recording, evaluation, and monitoring**

Staff will sometimes record their planning for Prayer and liturgy on the 'Floorbooks'. When children plan their Celebrations of the Word, they are given Cafod planning resources to aid them. Floorbooks will be taken in by the RE Lead each term for monitoring purposes. Prayer and liturgy will be recorded through displays, digital recordings and photographs. Some classes will have powerpoints, if the children choose to create them. Both staff and pupils will evaluate it on a regular basis. The RE lead will observe examples of Prayer and liturgy each term to celebrate areas of success and to offer any areas of development if needed. This will be fed back to staff during staff meetings. Peer observations are also actively encouraged especially for newer members of staff.

### **Policy review**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by SLT, RE Lead and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.