Our Lady and St John's Catholic Primary School
Boston Park Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9JF
www.ourladyandstjohns.org.uk

Prayer and Worship Policy

Policy Start Date	Policy Review Date	Frequency
Summer 2022	**Summer 2025**	**Three Years**

School Mission Statement

Our lady & St John's:

- Prides itself on teaching and delivering a curriculum through the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.
- Provides a safe, friendly and nurturing learning environment.
- A school where every individual is welcomed and respected.
- Encourages, celebrates and values individual talents and abilities.

Is proud of its sensitive and active partnership between school, home and Parish, and the wider community.

The school aims to nurture the spiritual, intellectual and physical growth of each pupil through a holistic approach, which takes due note of the needs of every child while, at the same time, striving for excellence in all aspects of education in a secure environment.

Introduction

As a Catholic school, the foundation of all that we do is based upon Christ and His Gospel values of love, peace and justice. All members of our community share the responsibility of supporting the Catholic identity of the school. We will strive to ensure that we place Christ and the teachings of the Church at the heart of what we do.

It is recognised that '…the first educators in the faith are parents. By their example in the home and the participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.' (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 2000)

As a Catholic school, we support parents in their role as the first educators. Our Mission at Our Lady & St. John's is to follow the teaching of the Catholic Church in its daily life through the celebration of the liturgy and through following the values taught in the Gospel of Jesus.

Through collective worship in school, we offer the opportunities for children to develop and grow in their faith. We seek to ensure that the message and spirit of the Gospel permeates all aspects of school life. It is to this end that we have agreed the following Mission Statement:

Purpose

Collective Worship Pupils in VA (Voluntary Aided) schools in England and Wales are required by law to take part in an act of collective worship on each school day, which must be in accordance with the provisions of the school's trust deed and instrument of government. In Catholic schools this is therefore "in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church". Collective Worship is more than just a legal requirement and is central to what we offer at Our Lady & St. John's.

The purpose of Collective Worship is to give children the opportunity to experience worship in a collective group thus promoting Spiritual, Cultural and Moral development and a sense of unity in our Christ centred community, where the love of God is always present, in word and deed.

Aims

The aim of Collective Worship is to provide experience in worship;

- To give opportunities to reflect on values and concerns of the school and the community it serves;
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response;
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves according to the tenets of their faith;
- To promote respect and sensitivity for the belief and values of others.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- To recognise pattern, sequence and order;
- To develop self-worth and the worth of others and interdependence with the natural world.
- To develop awareness that life involves choices based on our beliefs, attitudes, behaviour and relationships;
- To know that there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

All collective acts of worship at Our Lady & St John's are spiritual, inclusive and educational and contribute to the Moral, Social and Cultural development of children.

Collective Worship

Liturgy shapes prayer and worship to enable all pupils to have a conscious, active, meaningful and fruitful participation. (Christ at the Centre, 2012)

Acts of collective worship at Our Lady & St. John's take place in a variety of forms. These are supported by the learning environments around the school, which reflect the school's Catholic identity and mission.

Daily Prayers

The daily routine of school involves time for prayers:

● Each morning begins with Morning Prayer
● Grace before meals
● Grace after meals
● End of day prayer

Prayers are also said during other acts of collective worship. Spontaneous prayer is also encouraged responding to the needs of the children and the wider community. Alongside our school prayers, we recognise that prayer is individual for each person, and a variety of ways of prayer offered throughout the year. The children learn age-appropriate traditional prayers as well as contemporary prayers.

Mass

As Catholics, we believe the centre of our faith is the Eucharist. Through this Sacrament, we are joined in communion with Christ. Working with our Parish Priest, we will celebrate Mass in church on Holy Days of Obligation, and during significant times during the school year. Mass is celebrated as a whole school and as classes.

Child Led Worship

Central to supporting children in growing in their love and knowledge of Christ is the opportunity to plan and lead acts of worship. Children from across the school are supported to plan and lead their class in a time of worship. This takes place weekly.

Gospel Assembly

Each week, pupils from Y5 and Y6 lead KS2 in a child-led Gospel Assembly. This is planned and lead by the children. KS1 and EYFS have their own Gospel Assembly led by a staff member.

Teacher Led Worship

Each teacher will plan and lead an act of worship with their class. These take place each week and sometimes follow a whole school focus. We use Ten Ten Resources, who provide an assembly and daily prayer sessions each week linked to Sunday's Gospel and Mark 10 Mission to explore the Sunday Gospel with the children each Monday morning.

Hymn Practice
Children learn a variety of songs and hymns, both contemporary and traditional. The liturgical year guides the choice of music used for worship.

Whole School Assembly
The whole school comes together for Assembly on a Monday and Friday. This gives us a time to come together, spend time in the presence of God, and reflect and celebrate on the week that has just passed.

Reconciliation
Reconciliation services are held during the seasons of Advent and Lent are led by the Parish Priest and provide the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a priest.

Other Liturgies
Throughout the year, we celebrate different liturgies linked to the life of the Church such as the Carol Service, Lenten Service, and Stations of the Cross etc. Children from different year groups are involved in the planning and preparation of these.

Staff Prayer
Catholic schools are committed to communal prayer, and as such, Staff at Our Lady & St. John's meet regularly in the morning for Prayers at 8:15am. Governors also prayer together at the beginning of their meetings.

Prayer Tables
Prayer tables are there to support collective worship and the Catholic Life of the school. Each classroom has a prayer table and crucifix. Around the school, prayer tables and focal points are provided to enhance worship and allow children to explore their faith even more.

Home school links
Links with home to support collective worship are important. Parents invited to join certain acts of worship in school. Prayer resources and knowledge for what the children are studying are shared with families each term. RE Newsletters are sent out at the start of each term to assist with RE Homework and allow parents to assist with learning.

Monitoring of Collective Worship
The RE Subject Leader will monitor the delivery of collective worship at Our lady & St. John's. Collective worship is planned using the suggested format from the Diocese of Westminster. Planning sheets, photographs and evidence of the children's prayers and reflections are collated in the classroom collective worship book. Acts of worship and prayer areas may be monitored by the RE subject Leader and members of the SLT to ensure high quality collective worship is provided, and that worship is in line with the traditions of the Catholic Church. Monitoring also allows opportunities for good practise to be identified, shared and celebrated.

Headteacher:		**Date:**	
Chair of Governors		**Date:**	