

St Winifred's R.C. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



September 2022

St Winifred's is a Roman Catholic Primary School within the parish of St Winifred situated in Heaton Mersey, Stockport. As a denominational school it has a wide catchment area. At present 72% of the intake are Roman Catholic.

Mission Statement

At Saint Winifred's, as a Catholic school, our purpose is to ensure that all members of our school family live our school motto of CARITAS - God's love in action. This is shown through our love of God, our love of ourselves, our love of each other and our love of the world.

In light of our school mission statement we understand the prayer and worship life of our school community to be central to all we do.

1. Aims and Purpose.

Through liturgy and worship we aim to:

- ❖ Foster an understanding of what it means to belong to a community.
- ❖ Provide an opportunity for members of our school community to worship God.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for enhancing spiritual growth and personal development through prayer and reflection.
- ❖ Encourage the development of a personal relationship with God.
- ❖ Provide experiences of sharing values and celebrating significant events in the lives of individuals and the community.
- ❖ Develop knowledge of and experience seasons within the Church's year.
- ❖ Develop knowledge and understanding of scripture.
- ❖ Develop and celebrate skills of creativity.
- ❖ Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

2. Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school community coming together and participating in worship. We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

3. Liturgy

Liturgy is a communal act in which we praise and worship God. Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives. All good liturgies involve the telling of the story of Christ and His church. Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses; sight, touch, sound, taste and smell. In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer, through word and gesture, silence and stillness. The purpose of adapting liturgy for pupils is to lead them in full conscience and active participation in the wider liturgy of the church. Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and sympathy. Good liturgy touches our lives in such a way that we are renewed in our mission.

4. Liturgy and Worship in School

Time for worship is in addition to the 10% curriculum time for classroom Religious Education, as required by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Assemblies take place twice weekly; one focused on the current liturgical theme and the other a celebration of achievements or liturgical theme. Teachers plan a collective worship session into their weekly timetable.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of our Catholic faith, the Saints and we reflect on the festivals and events of our Catholic liturgical calendar. We also acknowledge the significant events for other faiths. The themes of our assemblies often build and reflect on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Within St Winifred's, liturgy and worship provides opportunities for the community to come together to celebrate and share. Parents of the year group leading the whole school assembly are invited to join the worship.

Every fortnight our Caritas Award Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for carrying out the mission of the school. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised.

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Collective Worship at St Winifred's may follow the pattern, or variation of the pattern as detailed below:

- ❖ Gather- how we come together, the setting, the environment. At St Winifred's we have a Gather that is used for all collective worship, giving children the opportunity to still themselves and prepare to listen and fully participate in collective worship.(Appendix 5)
- ❖ Read- A reading from the scriptures (or another suitable source).
- ❖ Respond- An opportunity for all participants to respond. This may be an opportunity to discuss, pray or an action that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle).

- ❖ Go forth-The sending out from the celebration, giving children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

The school and class Caritas books are used to record responses to Collective Worship.

5. Prayer

Prayer consists of listening, speaking, reflecting and resting.

'It is important to ensure that our prayer reflects the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging, a feeling of loneliness, celebration and peace, anger and upset.' –RE: The Primary Years, Danny Sullivan.

Prayer should be seen by adults, and children, as a special way to talk to God, and time is set aside for it at the beginning, middle and end of each day, as well as during collective worship. Spontaneous prayer and reflection on what has happened in the lives of our children at home, and at school is important. When praying with children we must remember that each of them is unique and therefore their prayer is unique. They come from different homes, with different experiences and an individual set of anxieties and questions. Teachers provide creative and varied opportunities for prayer so that children from many diverse backgrounds have the best opportunities to discover their own spiritual response. The use of singing and/or music, support this.

Daily Prayer in the Classroom

A daily experience of prayer- in classroom, assembly or elsewhere- is much more than just a legal requirement. It should be at the heart of our school. It is a centre to which many of the achievements and challenges of daily life can be brought and from which strength and purpose can be taken. At this centre, is Jesus. Daily prayer helps make Jesus real for all in the school- a friend whom they can trust and relate to, one who is a guide, and one to whom they can turn in a time of need. Prayer within the classroom should take place before and after lunch, at the start and end of the day. Our community must be able to pray as well as recite prayers together. Pupils should learn and experience all forms of prayer so that they can adore, give praise and thanks, express sorrow to God, on their own behalf and on behalf of others, as well as offer prayers of petition and intercession. The teaching of traditional prayers is included in the Religion Curriculum.

We use our classroom focal points as an aid to prayer. There is a focal point for prayer in each classroom, in the hall and in the entrance, appropriate to the liturgical season of the year and incorporating the correct liturgical colour.

Meditation

Meditation also plays a part in the prayer process. Allowing all members to be still, focus their mind and use their breathing to feel the Spirit of our Lord and to allow children to listen to the small, quiet voice within. We use a short period of quiet as part of the Gather for all Collective Worship and have purchased appropriate resources to further develop this.

Prayer Bags

Each week a prayer bag is sent home in each class with one of the children. The bag contains items to create a small prayer focus area, some age appropriate prayer books and a collective worship planning book. Children are encouraged to plan an appropriate Para liturgy using a reading of the Bible supplied by the class teacher. The Para liturgy is completed in class, led by the child.

Pupil Led Worship

Where possible pupil led worship is promoted and utilised. Children from the Student Leadership Teams support the planning of specific whole school assemblies using guidance and support from teachers and leaders. They are involved with the recording of key messages from worship assemblies and are used to promote the mission. Members of staff offer direction and support to ensure delivery aids reverence.

The GiFT Team also visit classes to lead Collective Worship at significant points in the liturgical year such as Advent.

Staff Prayer

All staff meetings begin with a prayer or reflection providing an opportunity to be still and quiet at the beginning of the day. Longer para-liturgies are planned into staff inset days.

6. Mass

Key Stage 2 pupils attend morning Mass in church weekly on a rota basis.

Whole School Mass is held (usually in the school hall) at the beginning of the year. Year 3 celebrate their sacramental journey with class masses held at church where school, families and the parish can join together to celebrate.

Other Celebrations

Patronal Feast Day

St Winifred's Day, our Patronal Feast Day is marked by a whole School Assembly, and a day of activities linked to St Winifred and her life.

Holy Days of Obligation

Whole School Masses celebrate the Holy Days of Obligation that fall on weekdays.

Advent and Lent

The seasons of Advent and Lent are times of preparation for Christmas and Easter and need to be given their own importance. Prayer and assemblies at this time reflect the season. During Advent, special Advent assemblies are planned and the children use the Advent Wreath as a focal point. During the last week of the Spring term preparation for Easter takes place, liturgies and prayers are planned to celebrate significant events of Holy Week. Year 4 pupils perform the Passion for their parents and the school community.

Inset/ Training

Inset day are allocated for Religious Development. This is an opportunity for staff to come together and reflect upon the spirituality of our school and their part within it.

Reconciliation

Years 4, 5 & 6 attend church as a year group during Advent and Lent to participate in reconciliation.

7. Home School Parish Links

At St Winifred's we are fortunate to have St Winifred's Church near our site. The school takes a lead in Sacramental preparation and celebration through class work and attendance of First Holy Communion celebrations.

Monsignor Quinlan our Parish Priest plays an active part in the life of our school with frequent visits.

8. Sacramental Programme

The school plays an important part in the process of preparing the children for the Sacraments of Initiation. The school hosts the parents' preparation meeting, and delivers all the preparation for first Confession and first Holy Communion with the children. The Sacramental Leader is responsible for the organisation of the Sacramental Programme for St Winifred's school, and liaises with the families of children who live within the Parish but do not attend St Winifred's.

9. Differentiation

A key principle of the Directory for Masses with Children is to enhance the quality of worship by adapting, whilst maintaining authenticity to the Catholic tradition, thus encouraging participation. Therefore worship and liturgy should be 'suited to children's age and capabilities'.

Children do not have to always understand all of the experiences provided in worship and liturgy, as they are aimed at a wide range of years. They must,

however, experience some elements that are relevant to them when they attend.

Curriculum RE plays an important role in preparing pupils for worship by giving them the means to understand the religious language and significance of the actions. Particular attentions should be given to the Word of God, and all reading used in liturgy and worship, so that it is proclaimed at a level appropriate to the pupils' age and capacity.

10. Equal Opportunities

Multicultural

In respect of liturgy and worship it is important to be faithful to the Catholic tradition. St Winifred's school community reflects to our multicultural society, so it is important to incorporate a multicultural dimension to the worship and liturgy. A certain degree of sensitivity is required to avoid tokenism and enable authentic celebration. The Catholic Church is a world-wide community (the largest multicultural institution in the world) with a wealth of different cultural traditions, as is Christianity a worldwide faith. It is helpful to draw upon these common traditions to promote a multicultural perspective.

Multi faith

Liturgies and worship should look to be inclusive where possible. We are sensitive to the needs of the children of other faiths and if requested, can provide time for their own worship in school. We acknowledge the significant celebrations of other faiths as part of the collective worship timetable. The presence of another faith will deepen and enrich the understanding of our own when there is a genuine dialogue. We believe a faith community is well placed for that dialogue to be most respected and fostered. Our admissions policy at St Winifred's reflects and welcomes this dialogue. Prayer is universal to all faiths and opportunities for personal and reflective prayer is the most inclusive.

11. Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Mass, collective worship and assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

12. Planning/Evaluating

Good liturgical celebrations are dependent upon good preparation. The involvement of those who celebrate in this preparation is crucial.

Key elements which guide liturgy preparations are:

- The scripture readings
- The season of the liturgical year/feast
- The nature of the celebration
- Particular events or concerns for the school or the wider community
- The nature of the school

The themes for whole school collective worship are planned prior to the beginning of the academic year and shared with all staff.

Children are encouraged at all levels to take the lead in the planning of liturgies. Teachers will guide the children through the appropriate planning for the year group and then the evaluation.

To continue to evaluate the effectiveness of Prayer and Worship observations are held in whole class worship in line with the school's monitoring policy. Observations are made by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and RE Subject Leader. An opportunity for sharing good practice follows this process so that teachers are able to continue to develop their skills.

Children also have the opportunity to develop their own para-liturgies at home when they take home their class prayer bag. This liturgy is to be developed and practised at home and then delivered to the whole class in school. Children are given resources and a guide to use in their liturgy. Each class member has the opportunity to take the prayer bag home.

13. Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governor concerned liaises with the RE Subject leader and Headteacher before reporting to the governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The RE Governor Mr Peter Jordan

The RE Subject Leader is: Miss Kate Dommett (acting)
Mrs Laura Gibb (returning from Maternity Leave 31.10.22)

This policy was produced in September 2022. The Governing Body should review this policy every 2 years, the next review will be in September 2024.

The Governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the Governing Body receives recommendations on how this policy might be improved.

Appendix 1 Prayers

Traditional Prayers

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Other Prayers

Morning and Evening Prayer

Prayer before and after meals

Responses at Mass

'And with your Spirit'

'Thanks be to God'

Greeting the Gospel- 'Alleluia'

KS1

As above, plus:

Traditional Prayers

Glory be to the Father

Hail Mary (also in sign language)

The Rosary

Eternal Rest

Other Prayers

Morning and Evening Prayer

Prayer before and after meals

Prayers at Mass

Lord have Mercy

Prayers of Intercession

KS2

As above, plus:

Traditional Prayers

Act of Contrition

The Creed

I confess

Angelus

Benedictus

Magnificat

Stations of the Cross

Blessing and giving of Ashes

Prayers at Mass

Eucharistic Prayer

Penitential Rite

Glory to God

Holy, holy

Lamb of God

Rite of Dismissal

Appendix 3- Collective Worship Planner

	<u>Collective Worship Planner</u>
	Leader: Theme: Date:
Gather	
Read	
Respond	
Go Forth	

Appendix 4- Questions for evaluating liturgy and worship

Preparation

Who was involved in the preparation?

Was the preparation inclusive?

What principles did you use to prepare the liturgy?

Was use made of the church's season and Lectionary?

Has the preparation led to areas for development?

Has the preparation focus nurtured the faith development of all?

The Celebration

Did what you had prepared succeed?

What was the quality of the participation?

Were those who ministered (readers, leaders) effective? Why?

How successful was the music?

Was there good use of space?

Was the liturgical focus clear?

Areas for Future Development

Who needs to be more involved in the preparation process?

What positive aspects can be reinforced?

What are the whole school training needs?

Who needs individual training?

What changes are needed to the environment?

What new resources are needed?

How will the changes be agreed and then managed?

Appendix 5

St Winifred's Collective Worship Gather

As children enter play reflective music each class to send one representative up to 'complete' the Jigsaw.

Start with the sign of the cross, say the school prayer. Ask children to finish by putting their hands upwards on their lap, find a comfortable seat, pull the invisible Golden Thread up through your spine lengthening your body, with each moment feel your body open itself up to receiving Jesus. Instruct children to close their eyes, keep their palms facing upwards towards Heaven. Ring the chime, instruct children to take a deep breath through their nose, then exhale through their mouth. Keep their focus on their breathing until the chime can no longer be heard. Repeat breathing, stating 'Be still and know I am with you'. When you hear the chime again, open your eyes and be ready to begin.