



## ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Collective worship policy

#### Mission Statement

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

The mission of our school is to support and further the teachings of Christ and His Church.

We welcome and embrace individuals of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to enhance and celebrate their moral, physical, social and emotional development, so that they may reach their full potential in an atmosphere of stability, care and respect.

We believe that education is for all and in partnership with parents, carers, children and the wider Catholic community: we will strive and succeed in a wholly inclusive setting.

#### Equality Statement

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School. We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Date issued: May 2021

Date to be reviewed: May 2024

Written by: Mrs Claire Burns (RE co-ordinator)

## Rationale:

"For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them" Matthew 18:20.

At St. Augustine of Canterbury, collective worship is an integral part of our school ethos and central to the Catholic life of the school.

We believe that collective Christian worship in St. Augustine of Canterbury celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

## Aims:

Collective worship considers the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God;
- To develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To foster and nurture relationships;
- To respond to and to celebrate life;
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- To nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;
- To enrich religious experience;
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- To seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## Principles:

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Give children meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church;
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church; In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
  - be concise and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings. (*Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9*).

- Be of a high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Be examples of good practice, which should enable children to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

## Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents - see CES Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship). Acts of Collective Worship are not to be designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school this means that times of Collective Worship are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the children.

Children in VA 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". Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools.

## Collective Worship and Prayer

At St. Augustine of Canterbury we aim to make collective worship meaningful to the children. They are encouraged to take an active part in most assemblies either by acting, singing, leading prayers, through liturgical dance or quiet reflection. Different forms of prayer are encouraged during class reflections and collective worship. Children regularly engage in spontaneous prayer, stilling, thanksgiving and guided meditations.

We use Ten Ten resources to support with Collective Worship at St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School. The vision of Ten Ten Resources is to help school communities grow in faith, love, understanding and compassion. They provide a wide-range of unique media-rich resources, inspired by our Catholic faith and linked with the Gospel.

## Assemblies and Hymn Practice

Collective worship takes place on a daily basis. On Monday and Friday, we have a whole school assembly lead by the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher. On Tuesday we have a whole school hymn practice, linked to the liturgical year or upcoming masses, liturgies or events. Wednesday is the infant assembly and Thursday is the junior assembly, lead by the class teachers. On the day when there is no assembly for infants and juniors, a reflection is held either in the class or the school Chapel, including use of guided meditation resources. The Friday assembly alternates between a work sharing assembly for infants, juniors and a year group led assembly.

On occasion, special visitors are invited in to lead assemblies - e.g. Cafod and Catholic Children's Society representatives and other guest speakers relating to enrichment weeks etc.

## Masses and Liturgies

Mass is an important part of our school community worship. The staff prepare the children for this occasion by encouraging them to lead the readings, hymns, bidding prayers and offertory. At St. Augustine of Canterbury we celebrate Holy Days, other major feast days, and the start/end of each school year. These are planned by the Head teacher, RE co-ordinator or class teachers, and given to the Parish Priest in advance of the Mass.

During the school year, additional masses and liturgies are celebrated on a cycle - the KS2 classes (Years 3-6) participate in a junior mass, with the Infant classes conducting a celebration liturgy in the Church delivered by the teacher and Parish Sister or Deacon. The class teachers prepare these Masses and liturgies which are linked to the RE programme.

We also have whole school liturgies; celebrating children's work at different times of the year e.g. Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross service etc.

Teachers conduct class liturgies and celebrations linked to each of the 'Come and See' topics during the rejoice section of Response, [which are planned for and led by the children.](#)

## Prayer

Prayer is an important part of daily life in our school. Children are encouraged to pray in their own words and for their own intentions throughout the day. Each class has a religious focal area, relating to the 'Come and See' topic to be used for reflections and during the RE lesson.

Traditional Catholic prayers are taught in specific key stages in accordance with the 'Come and See' programme.

Children pray at certain times of the day: morning, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. [As well as these prayer opportunities throughout the school day, the children also engage with the daily prayers from Ten Ten resources, which often link with the Gospel theme from the Monday whole school assembly.](#)

KS1 and KS2 Prayer packs for NQT's or new teachers are available from the RE co-ordinator.

## Collective Worship and Prayer at home

[To help further strengthen the children's spirituality, the school provides materials and resources for use at home within family prayer times and worship.](#)

[We are part of the Wednesday Word family - "Sharing the Sunday Gospel with families through primary schools and enriching the Home, School & Parish partnership". Each Wednesday the children receive a special leaflet to take home, sharing the Gospel with their family \(currently a virtual online leaflet\).](#)

[We also share resources, websites and ideas for home reflection and worship with parents/carers on our school website and through Parent Mail communication.](#)

## Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The school Chapel is available for quiet reflection and prayer for both the children during various times in the year. Use of this reflective area is also actively encouraged during advent and Lent through our 'Pop in and Pray' scheme.

The school grounds provide the opportunity for spontaneous contemplation, meditation and prayer by the children with the use of the Holy garden. The Holy garden and the school chapel are also used regularly during RE lessons.

We also provide opportunities for groups of children to go on a spiritual retreat to Aylesford Priory, to strengthen their relationship with God.

### **GIFT Team - Growing in faith together**

At St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary school, we actively encourage all children to take the lead with preparing, organising and leading Collective Worship with high quality modelling by members of staff to help develop and sustain this.

*Children who are given the opportunity to develop their spirituality are likely to be successful learners who are creative, resourceful and able to identify and solve problems. They have enquiring minds and think for themselves, process information, reason, question and evaluate. They will know about big ideas and events that shape our world. They will be confident individuals who have a sense of self-worth and personal identity, who relate well to others and form good relationships, are self-aware and deal with their emotions and be open to excitement and inspiration offered by the natural world and human achievements. (from 'The Spirit of the Child' - Hay, Nye and Kingsley, 2006)*

Within KS2, the children have the opportunity to develop their Spiritual journey further as members of the GIFT (*Growing In Faith Together*) Team. These representatives within the KS2 classes are ambassadors for leading collective worship within their classes as well as across KS1 and KS2. They receive support and guidance from their class teachers as well as from the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

### **Resources**

Every class has a Holy table and focal display used for prayer times in RE, reflections and collective worship. These can include;

- a candle
- a cloth
- a cross or crucifix
- images
- relevant scripture relating to current liturgical season or Children's bible

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.