



## ***Prayer and Liturgy Policy***

<b>Ratification date:</b>	June 2021
<b>Committee:</b>	Leadership and Management Committee
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Susan Day
<b>Head Teacher:</b>	Nuala Ferguson
<b>Review Date:</b>	June 2023

### 1. VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to work together in the way of Christ, to develop learners who are respectful, responsible, educated young people who will contribute positively to the world and the global community and grow with a faith that will underpin their whole lives.

#### **'Christ at the heart of all we do'**

It is the gift of Christian faith to know that God speaks to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We chose 'Christ at the heart of all we do', for Christ is the one who not only shows us the truth about God but also the truth about ourselves. Christ is indeed at the centre of education at St Anne's. To put Christ at the heart of all we do means we integrate the gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life. In our school, our children's journey towards adulthood will also be a journey of faith.

Prayer is a fundamental part of our school life.

Informal prayer has a very important place in the spiritual life of the children and should include the everyday language of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry.

Informal prayer should encourage reflection by all pupils on their everyday life



## 2. AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of Prayer and Liturgy are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to speak to God and develop their own spirituality;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children about Christian faith and beliefs.

## 3. ORGANISATION OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

- We hold a daily act of prayer and liturgy in our school. This could be in the form of: Whole School, House or Key-Stage Assembly, Class Liturgy, Mass or Hymn Practice.

- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and encourage the children to participate in a thoughtful and reverent manner.

- The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups prepare and deliver assemblies. Children are also encouraged to take an active role in prayer and liturgy within the class under guidance of the Class Teacher.

- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Our weekly Celebration Assembly acknowledges and rewards children for their achievements both in and around school. They are awarded Gospel Certificates for acts in which the children have displayed gospel values in one form or another.

- We invite parents to class assemblies and performances and liturgical celebrations on a regular basis. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.



- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

#### 4. RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend 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.

#### 5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education to monitor the policy and practice of prayer and liturgy in the school. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

#### 6. FOCAL AREAS

These are set in up each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics. The children may be involved in the design and content of the Class Focal Area and are encouraged to make use of the area throughout the day.

Prayer Garden – Within the school grounds, the Prayer Garden offers a quiet place for individual reflection, an area for class prayer, Prayer Group and Mini Vinnie activities and services.

Date	Version	Notes
June 21	Draft 1	Initial draft shared with full governing Body and approved