

St William of York Catholic Primary School



Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship Policy

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

_____ Head Teacher

Date: 3rd March 2022

Review date: March 2024

Policy for Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship

“Together Everyone Achieves More”.

What is Prayer, Liturgy and Worship?

Prayer, liturgy and worship is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of beliefs, values and events, which are of central importance to us and our community. It is concerned with praising God, forms part of everyday life in a Catholic school and often reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities, including the liturgical celebrations of the Church.

Prayer

Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God and can have a variety of forms and styles and express different things.

- Blessing and Adoration – the prayer which blesses God for the goodness which has been shown to humankind
- Prayers to express sorrow – the prayer which asks for forgiveness and which calls for the establishment of the Kingdom of God
- Intercession – consists in asking on behalf of another and ourselves
- Thanksgiving – acknowledging the gifts which God has given
- Praise – the prayer which praises God simply because God is

Worship/ Liturgy

Worship is recognising and celebrating that God is present and active in all authentic human experiences. We have a blessed life and worship is celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. Liturgy is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Through Liturgy and Worship, we encourage the development of a personal relationship with God. Good Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. Worship, Prayer and Liturgy happens when everyone is fully involved in the preparation and celebration.

Aims of Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship at St William of York

We work towards developing a celebration which includes;

- Working to know and acknowledge the presence of God
- Enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging to a community with a common ethos and shared values
- Opportunities for individual reflection and silent prayer
- Opportunities to pray by giving praise and thanks to God
- Exploring personal beliefs and worshipping God
- Responding to and celebrating life by taking time out to ‘wonder’
- Contemplating something of the mystery of God
- To nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures and silence
- Enriching the religious experience of all members of the school community
- Promoting the values and ethos of the school and reinforcing positive attitudes
- Reflecting on spiritual and moral issues
- Experience what it means to belong or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.
- Learning how the Liturgy of the Church is structured.
- Making links between communal prayer and liturgy and daily life.
- Building a firm foundation for liturgy presented in a **Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth** format.

Legal Requirements

Worship at St. William of York is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to Catholic tradition; giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God through word and action.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that **all** pupils must take part in a **daily** act of worship and that Collective Worship is not curriculum time and does not constitute Religious Education although it ought to reinforce it.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues that may arise during times of collective worship. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship in St. William of York

Prayer and liturgy in St. William of York is given high priority with all members of the school community and all are encouraged to participate actively. Our Collective Worship, whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment, will reflect the tradition of the Church and be Christian in character. Prayer is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the Power of the Spirit.

Planning, context and delivery

The act of worship is intended to be appropriate for all pupils attending St. William of York in terms of content to the age, ability and background of the pupils involved. The school will make every effort to provide the resources and accommodation that are appropriate in its content, form, organisation, presentation and leadership. The timing of this is specific to each class and age group. Generally, it is recommended that children spend at least one minute for each year of their life engaging in a form of worship each day.

Normally the collective act of worship will take place on the school premises but there will be occasions when the school community will gather in church for special celebrations. These specific occasions will be undertaken with the approval of the governing body.

The task of the teacher in Collective Worship, is to go beyond the admiration of the poet and the question of the philosopher as to the 'how' of things and allow the child to find the bond linking him or her with the 'who', God the Creator.

-Documents Cate'che'tiques

All teachers in the school have the responsibility of planning and leading high quality prayer and worship sessions which occur in a variety of ways- whole school, key stage and class worship. They encourage child participation and active response through involvement in the presentation of worship, or through listening to, and joining in the worship offered.

Foundation Stage

Prayer and worship takes place daily within the classroom and consists of saying hello to everybody including God, prayers, songs and quiet reflection as well as more formal acts of Liturgy and Worship.

Key Stage One and Two

KS1 and KS2 get two key stage Worship in the hall per week. This is planned and led by the Head teacher and local chaplain. On other days, Prayer, Liturgy and Worship takes place in individual classrooms at appropriate and meaningful points of the day (see class timetables).

Through participating and observing good quality Worship, staff are developing skills in the children that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship. All children are encouraged to join in with and help to plan for and deliver worship at a level appropriate to their age and ability.

From year one to six, there are two Worship Leaders in each class. These children attend a Worship club led by the RE Coordinator and plan, lead and evaluate Collective Worship for the following week. They resource and deliver the worship themselves.

Record of Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship

Teachers at St. William of York follow a Collective Worship planner with the theme for the week planned for on a weekly basis by members of teaching staff. This is done on a rotational basis whereby themes are delivered through prayer, stories, songs, silent reflection, dialogue, debates and interviews, poems, artefacts, ritual, movement, sayings, sharing food and drama. Leaders and children may share individual experiences to deepen understanding of the week's theme. Worship Leaders use the liturgical calendar to celebrate Gospel stories and plan sessions based on important Catholic themes such as 'The God Who Speaks', 'Laudato Si' and 'Fratelli Tutti'.

The purpose of this is:

- To ensure that a variety of themes are explored throughout the year
- To avoid repetition
- To assist in monitoring of Collective Worship
- To record evidence of Collective Worship

Teachers have access to relevant resources and are encouraged to introduce pupils to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, developed in ways which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are encouraged to create their own focus area and collect interesting artefacts to enhance Collective Worship within their own classrooms.

Type:	Example:
Praying the psalms	'I thank you for the wonder of my being' (Psalm 139)
Traditional prayers	Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary
Repetitive prayer	'Jesus, I love you', repeated several times, slowly
Meditation	Scripture reflection with use of imagination
Bodily prayer	Raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting
Prayer of the heart	Stillness to listen to God: 'Be still and know that I am God.'
Contemplation	Looking at trees, a sunset, an icon etc.
Gestures	The sign of the cross, the sign of peace
Hymns	Traditional and modern hymns
Music	Listening to quiet, reflective music
Litanies for all of creation:	Thanks be to God
Celebrations	Prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done

Links to Curriculum Areas

At St. William of York, we use the Come and See Religious Education Programme and Journey in Love for RSE. Embedded into these programmes are opportunities for collective worship, prayer and reflection. Collective Worship may also be used to promote equality and diversity through promoting Jesus' teaching to 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' Staff recognise the distinctive nature of Collective Worship, however, where appropriate links are made with other curriculum areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship is regularly monitored and discussed during staff meeting time to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills/abilities in, organising and leading worship. Good practice and resources are shared during this time. Monitoring takes in the form of planning scrutiny, discussion and observations of Worship in all classes.