

# St Philip's Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

**Summer 2021  
Review Spring 2023**

**Responsibility for Implementation:  
Headteacher and Chair of Governors**

### **Our Mission Statement**

St Philip's is a welcoming community where everyone belongs. With Christ at the centre, we pray together and show our love for God by living the Gospels.

Showing care and compassion for each other, we are kind and sharing; treating each other fairly and with respect. We value everyone as unique children of God.

We create a caring, stimulating environment where everyone feels safe and secure.

We foster a love of learning, embracing challenge and never giving up. With support and encouragement, we learn from our mistakes and always strive to do our utmost.

We find the best in all, nurturing our individual strengths and developing the confidence to allow everyone to reach their potential, preparing ourselves for the journey ahead.

## **Spirituality**

### **1. Introduction: What is spirituality?**

At St. Philip's Catholic Primary School, we believe spirituality to be the essence of being human and to be related to God. We develop understanding that we were created by God, in His image and likeness. We understand that He is calling us back into a relationship with Him by way of His Son Jesus.

To develop this relationship with God, we need to understand that prayer is integral. Through prayer we will experience the importance of the Gospel and the need to live by it. Through the experience of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in personal prayer and reflection we will experience the life of God within ourselves, and in liturgical prayer we will experience our need for the life of our community and of those who live within it.

We are all spiritual beings and as a community, we acknowledge that this needs to be developed and nurtured in order to develop our relationship with God.

### **2. Aims: Why is Spirituality important for us?**

We encourage all of our community to develop by helping one another to grow in our understanding of Christ. Our School Mission Statement sets this out clearly:

With Christ at the centre, we pray together and show our love for God by living the Gospels.

Prayer and worship are at the heart of our Catholic community. We aim to create an environment and opportunities where our school community is able to pray and develop in spirituality by enriching their relationships with God and growing in faith.

### **3. Spirituality in Practice**

Opportunities for prayer are provided throughout the day and are seen as an integral part of the life of the school. Children are given time to think and reflect. This is encouraged and developed as part of an RE lesson, a school assembly, a class Liturgy and through other curriculum areas. We encourage and promote spontaneous opportunities for prayer. We are aware of the 'awe and wonder' moments which can occur at any place, at any time during the school day.

There are designated areas within our school where the children can take some time to pray and reflect. We have communal Prayer areas and there are also prayer areas in each classroom which children can freely access at any time. Prayer tables in each class are interactive and include a Bible and Liturgical cloths. Each class keeps a Spiritual Journey Book. There are opportunities for the children to record their prayers and thoughts. Children can pray in our 'Mary Garden' which has been created with plants which link to Mary.

Class prayers are said at the end of the day and at lunchtimes. During Liturgies and Gospel assemblies we follow the format of Gather, Listen to the Word of God, Response to The Word and Going Forth.

Children have the opportunity to ask 'Big Questions' and we are developing this with our parish priest being invited into school to answer some of these 'Big Questions'.

## Collective Worship

**'Whenever two or three of you gather together in my name, I am there in the midst of you.'**  
**(Matthew 18:20)**

### **Introduction**

At St Philip's Catholic School we believe that we are an 'active faith' community. We acknowledge the importance of corporate prayer and worship as well as private prayer and reflection. The opportunity to gather as a community for collective worship is an essential part of our school life. We believe that this time together for prayer and reflection strengthens the children in their relationship with God and each other. We value highly the chance to pray together, listen together, sing together and celebrate together.

Our celebrations are based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also take the opportunity through our assemblies to learn about other religious traditions that are represented in the wider community and respect the value of them to their followers.

### **Aims and purpose**

At St Philip's the aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God;
- to help children grow and develop in their personal faith and 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 how to worship

### **Organisation of collective worship**

Celebrations can take many forms, all of which attempt to help children understand some of the elements of Liturgy. For example greeting, silence, reflection, prayer and community praise. They help to prepare children to share and take an active role in the liturgical life of the Church. As we develop as a faith community children and adults participate in masses, liturgies, services of reconciliation and assemblies. Parents and families are invited to attend. Children are given the opportunity to organise Acts of Worship themselves.

The pattern for collective worship is:

- ❖ **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible.
- ❖ **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.
- ❖ **Reflect** – time and activities to think about how children can live the Gospel message in their daily lives

Some celebrations in keeping with the Liturgical Calendar. (For all that we celebrate please see yearly planner.)

- Celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist in whole school or class masses in St. Philip's church
- Celebrations on special Saints' days and Holy Days e.g. St. Philip's Feast Day, Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul;
- May Service to celebrate Our Lady and the rosary;
- Opportunities to reflect on the word of God (assemblies, class assemblies, in prayer areas, in the Mary Garden, at Prayer tables.);

- Opportunities for spontaneous prayer as well as formal prayer;
- Use of music, art, song, drama, dance during Masses, assemblies, Liturgies, and within all lessons;
- Contributing to our Prayer area and to prayers and displays around the school (e.g. for Holy Souls).

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school, therefore, the '**Liturgy of the Word**', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

### **Whole School and Community Liturgies, Masses and Celebrations**

Throughout the Liturgical Year there are a number of whole school and community masses and celebrations. These include:

- New School year Mass
- Harvest Liturgy
- Advent Service of Reconciliation
- Christmas Nativity for KS1 and KS2 and Christmas Carol Concert
- Epiphany Liturgy
- Ash Wednesday Whole School Service
- Lent Service of Reconciliation
- KS1 Palm Sunday Liturgy
- Stations of the Cross Service
- St Philip Mass, Patron Saint
- May Liturgy in honour of Our Lady
- First Holy Communion Mass
- Year 6 and Reception Leaver's Mass
- In addition to these, extra assemblies, masses or celebrations may be added to welcome or say goodbye to governors, staff members, special visitors or mark significant national or community events.

### **Whole School Gospel Assemblies**

The Head teacher leads our whole school assemblies on Thursday mornings. The focus for this assembly is either the Gospel of the day, the Sunday Gospel or a special feast day.

### **Praise through song**

This is held once a week. Children have the opportunity to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God to music and song.

## Celebration Assemblies

Celebration assemblies are held once a week and children are given the chance to celebrate their gifts and talents with the whole school community. During these assemblies children's efforts, hard work and achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Philip's School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Parents and Governors can come to Liturgies held at school and we welcome them and encourage them to attend, as 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.

## Class Liturgies

Class Liturgies are held in classrooms. They are often led by the children in KS2. These usually follow the "Liturgy Planner". Some of these Liturgies are recorded in the class Spiritual Journey book.

The pattern of collective worship is as follows:

Day	Act of Worship	Person Leading
Monday	Pastoral Care Liturgy	PC teachers
Tuesday	Child led liturgy	Children/Class Teachers/ Father Ian
Wednesday	Praise through Song/ Class Mass	Music Leaders/Class Teachers
Thursday	Gospel Assembly	Headteacher
Friday	Celebration	Assistant Heads

When appropriate local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited to lead assemblies. We also invite charitable organisations such as CAFOD to lead assemblies.

<b>Special Times of the Year St Philips Catholic Primary School</b>	
Autumn Term	Welcome to school year- whole school Mass. This welcomes any new children/ staff members/ governors to the school October - The Month of the Rosary November - Month of Remembrance Children are invited to write prayers and pray for loved ones who have departed. Advent: The appropriate purple colour is used and teachers are encouraged to display and Advent Wreath, crib and Advent calendar. Children are encouraged to write Advent promises which are displayed on in Prayer corners. A special display is made in our central prayer area to show the Advent wreath. Different classes take it in turns to light the Advent candle on the display. Reconciliation Service with KS2.
Spring Term	Ash Wednesday Reconciliation Services with 3,4,5,6 with opportunities for individual reconciliation for appropriate pupils Lent: The appropriate purple colour is used. Palm Sunday Liturgy led by KS1 The Stations Of The Cross led by Y6 Easter Sunday: Colour for Easter is white. Ascension Thursday: The prayer focus for this is a Picture Bible opened at the appropriate place, a candle and crucifix. White is used. Dressing of the Cross Liturgy led by Y3 and Y4
Summer Term	St Philip's Day – A mass and picnic to celebrate our Patron Saint Pentecost: Remembering the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, celebrations of the Holy Spirit are marked with a red coloured cloth. During May we hold a May procession which can be held outside or inside. There are now two versions of this celebration one adapted for indoor celebration should weather keep us inside. We pray the Rosary whilst processing and place flowers under Mary's statue and crown Our Lady's statue before returning to class. Families are encouraged to bring in flowers to share during the procession. Corpus Christi – The Body of Christ: This remembers the gift of Jesus through the Eucharist and how Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist. This date moves each year. Mass to celebrate our First Holy Communion children. Leavers Mass at the end of the school year. This is celebrated with their Reception Special Friends

## **Prayer**

Children are encouraged to develop their prayer life in different ways. They are made aware of the different ways in which God makes Himself known through his Word, other people, the world and through the sacraments. We aim to help children to explore and develop their own personal way of talking to God as well as teaching children important prayers of the Church, prayers of thanksgiving, praise and repentance. In addition we aim to teach children about different prayer forms such as meditation. Prayers are said at the beginning and end of each day and before and after lunch. Spontaneous prayers and reflections may take place during the school day, during RE lessons and if there is a particular intention to pray for or when a news story has impacted on the children. All teaching and support staff are expected to take part in worship and prayer with the children. Focus areas, interactive displays are within the school to give the children opportunities to reflect on the themes and ideas that may be suggested to them during collective worship. Opportunities are provided for the children to go individually or with a friend to write a prayer, pause for thought or create a reflection. For example, write a prayer for the November Book of Remembrance, writing promises for Advent, Lent and the New Year, a child's reflection on their 'Come and See' topic and so on.

Prayer forms which are commonly used at St Philip's include guided meditation, spontaneous prayer, interactive prayer, prayers of faith and breathing prayers.

There is a Prayer Area situated outside the Headteacher's office and in the KS2 corridor. If they choose children can write prayers linked to the liturgical theme or they can write spontaneous prayers if they wish. Children can use this area freely at break times and also as part of a lesson.

Each class has a prayer table, which is linked to the current 'Come and See' topic. These are interactive and the children are encouraged to take responsibility for displaying the artefacts, statues, flowers, and fabrics. Displays in the in the hall reflect the changing liturgical Seasons or the 'Come and See' topics. These are regularly updated by the RE subject leader.

### **Prayers to be taught by year group**

#### **Foundation**

The Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Grace before meals

Introduction to simple Taize chants

#### **Year 1**

##### **All of the above**

Glory Be To the Father

Hail Mary/Ave Maria

#### **Year 2**

##### **All of the above**

Parts of the Gloria

Act of Contrition (own)

Simple examination of Conscience

#### **Year 3**

##### **All of the above**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lamb of God

Short Act of Contrition

Prayers before/after reconciliation

Prayers before/after Communion

#### **Year 4**

##### **All of above**

#### **Year 5**

##### **All of the above**

#### **Year 6**

The Way of the Cross- Stations of the cross

The Gloria

## **Resources**

Each class has an RE resource box which contains coloured fabric, pictures, artefacts, statues, candles and other special objects. The children choose items from these boxes to put on their class prayer table. The children are also encouraged to bring in any sentimental or special objects in from home, which can be used.

Books, music, candles and other items which support collective worship, are kept with the RE resource cupboard which has been recently moved into the hall to allow all staff to have free access. The area is monitored and updated regularly by the RE subject leader who regularly updates the area.

## **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend collective worship. 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 Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **Monitoring and review**

The RE co-ordinator liaises with parish priest and deacons with regard to collective worship and liturgical celebrations.

It is the role of the A&Q Committee as well as Geraldine Smith who have overall Governor responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Head teacher reports to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Monitoring of planning, teaching, learning and use of Prayer areas is undertaken by the RE Subject Leader with support from the Senior Leadership Team and an annual report is written and shared with Governors.

## **Appendix 1: Classroom Prayer Tables and Displays**

Class prayer tables should be current, interactive and 'belong' to the children.

The prayer table should:

- be accessible for the children
- reflect the current liturgical season/ current topic, including colour of backing paper and bordette
- have a bible, candle, Spiritual Journal and other religious object
- have a class prayer box / book for children to contribute their own prayers and Petitions or some interactive activity
- have something contributed or chosen by the children.

RE Displays should reflect the current topic and be bright, interesting and child friendly.

Displays should include:

- The title of the current topic
- The key words linked to the current topic
- Key questions
- Children's writing / drawings / prayers/ art work from the current topic

Appendix 3:

**St. Philip's Catholic School Liturgy Planner**

Led by:

**What is your theme? (Gospel reading of the day, a Saint or your own choice.)**

<b>Gather</b> How do you want children to sit? What music do you want? Projector picture maybe?	
<b>The Word of God</b> Choose a reading from the Bible. Could be Gospel from Mass of the day or your own choice	<b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Response to the Word</b>	
<b>Going Forth</b>	



# Appendix 4



## ST PHILIP'S MASS PLANNER



Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mass Planner		Children
Theme		
Entrance Hymn		
Welcome / Introduction		
Penitential Rite		
Opening Prayer		
First Reading		
Responsorial Psalm		
Gospel Acclamation		
Gospel Reading		
Homily		
Bidding Prayer		
Offertory / Hymn		
Eucharistic Prayer		
Our Father (Sung)		
Communion Hymn		
Closing Prayer		
Recessional Hymn		
Music		
Priest		
Altar Servers		
Offertory		
Venue		



