

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP, PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY



## Mission Statement

*“We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as  
we learn love and grow together”*

Reviewed – Spring 25

To be reviewed – Spring 26

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee

Ratified at Full Governing Body meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## INTENT

The Aims of Collective Worship:

At St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To deepen their own relationship with God
- To create opportunities to experience God's presence in their daily lives
- To promote a sense of belonging and unity within the school community
- To grow in the values of love, kindness, respect and service to others
- To explore and develop ethical decision making and strong moral values based on the Catholic tradition
- To develop a sense of responsibility in all areas of catholic social teaching
- To grow in liturgical understanding and participation
- To reinforce the habit of personal prayer and contemplation
- To find inspiration within the person of Christ

### Principles:

All Acts of worship at St Vincent de Paul will:

- Place God at the centre of the celebration
- Be rooted in the Catholic faith, but inclusive of all student and staff regardless of their individual beliefs
- Provide positive liturgical experiences, where material is carefully chosen and appropriate for the age and stage, aptitude and family backgrounds to foster engagement.
- Be regular, well-paced and allow participants to connect with God in a personal and contemplative way.
- Provide a space and opportunity for pupils to reflect and respond to key values such as forgiveness, kindness and justice.

### Legal requirements

- Provide daily collective worship for all pupils (section 70, 1988 Education Act)
- Acts of Collective worship is not part of the designated curriculum time. In Catholic Schools, it is separate from the Religious Education Curriculum.
- Understand and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.
- Foundation Governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their school.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Collective worship at St Vincent de Paul School occurs daily. Each act takes place either through the whole school or Key Stage assemblies, hymn practice and worship, year group liturgy or within individual classrooms. The collective worship/liturgy session follows the liturgical calendar and is structured within the Gather, Word, Response, Mission format. The session is organised to be appropriate to the age, ability and background of those participating.

<b>Monday</b>	Whole class assembly focusing on behaviour and Catholic Social Teaching within the school community.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year groups join in a collective act of worship, where one class organises and leads the liturgy with lead Teacher.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pupils engage in an act of worship through singing / hymn practice
<b>Thursday</b>	KS/Whole school assembly. A link is made to the Wednesday Word which is then incorporated into class worship. This assembly also links to our school mission statement.
<b>Friday</b>	Class liturgies where pupils are encouraged to read/say a prayer, share the word, lead a hymn and set up a reflection area.

Staff meeting and briefing starts with a prayer and reflection to remind staff of the distinctive nature of the school and the school mission statement.

Each classroom contains a prayer table which acts as a stimulus for reflection and prayer. Again, all prayer tables reflect the Liturgical season and staff and pupils are invited and encouraged to engage in purposeful prayer.

In addition to whole school and class worship opportunities, a week, 'Be Spirited' week, is dedicated annually to facilitate spiritual reflection and contemplation. Sessions are organised where each class can engage in a variety of activities, rooted in the Catholic faith, but linked to spiritual development.

### Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned according to a structure and reflects the Liturgical seasons and Religious Education Curriculum. The whole school assembly is based on and reflects the Sunday Gospel. The Wednesday Word is used to make delivery appropriate to all ages and stages. Collective worship is planned by the adults, but supported by the children. Pupils are encouraged to organise the prayer/reflection area, lead prayers, read scripture or lead hymns alongside an adult. The collective worship follows the same format:

- Gather
- Word
- Respond
- Mission

Pupils are taught and invited to recite a range of prayers from the heart, but can also use prayers written by individuals.

Progressive prayer is encouraged to enable a broad range of prayer rooted in the Catholic tradition.

**Whole School Prayer progression Map, *this list is not exhaustive but covers the expected prayer to be learnt***

Age Phase	EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Prayers	-The sign of the Cross  -Morning prayer  -Grace before meals  -Home time prayer	-The Lord's Prayer  -Hail Mary  -Glory Be	-The Apostles' Creed  -Act of Contrition	-The Rosary  -Act of Faith  -Act of Hope  -Act of Love  -The Magnificat

Year groups attend Mass at the local Parish Church, St Joseph's Catholic Church weekly. This strengthens the link between the school and Parish community.

The Chaplaincy Team meets to plan liturgies to support special events in school such as Remembrance Day and days dedicated to Saints.

Reflections linked to Advent, Lent and Mary are organised by a member of SLT and pupils, Teachers and parents are invited to attend to enrich religious experience, but also develop community spirit.

**Parent and Parish Links**

At St Vincent de Paul School its Catholic Ethos is rooted within the gospel values and is Christ-centred. We encourage and guide pupils towards the understanding of how these values can help them fulfil their mission as Catholics.

We understand that Parents are the primary educators of their children and we seek to engage and establish an open partnership. We establish this by:

- Welcoming and introducing parents from incoming pupils with the school's mission
- Inviting and encouraging the attendance and participation of family members in celebrations, assemblies and masses.

- Hosting community events, to strengthen the community ethos, celebrate our diverse community and encourage families from all backgrounds to attend.

## **IMPACT**

The impact of collective worship is reviewed regularly as part of the schools monitoring process, to ensure they align with the needs of the pupils and reflect the school's mission.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

The governors, members of SLT and the REC are responsible for ensuring that daily worship have been timetabled for whole school, class and year group.

In our school it is necessary that:

- Dedicated people are responsible for organising Collective Worship across the school
- Collective worship, in the form of prayer and liturgy, happens daily
- All pupils are invited to access prayer and liturgy daily
- Collective worship or liturgies are well resourced to enable pupils to take part and contribute
- There is regular and targeted monitoring of collective worship to reflect the school's distinctive Catholic nature.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated by SLT and the REC at least once a year. They will evaluate whether provision is appropriate and ensure that pupils are progressing towards gaining the skills and independence in organising and leading worship. Key events will be promoted, and when appropriate, run by the Chaplaincy Team. All teachers have a key responsibility in monitoring and developing the prayer life of the children.