

St Gregory's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pursuing Excellence:
Welcoming All

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff/link governor responsible:	Curriculum
Date policy approved:	January 2018
Date to be reviewed:	January 2021

Our Mission Statement

“At the heart of our community, our mission is to treat others the way that we would like to be treated, to provide a caring and stimulating environment whilst promoting enthusiasm for life-long learning where all individuals feel respected, challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.

A school of the future, growing and working together in God's family and realising the champion within.”

Rationale

At St. Gregory's, we encourage the children to look to Jesus Christ and place him at the heart of all they do. In order to do this, we need to explore the children's spiritual development and associated moral issues through the distinctive faith of Christianity through Catholicism. It is essential to come together as a 'family' or 'community' in a variety of situations including as classes, Key Stages, whole school and parish. These gatherings are important to praise God together, to celebrate and to grow and develop as followers and friends of Christ.

Aims

To develop and promote the overall Catholic ethos of the school.
To encourage the children to realise that we are 'the Church'.
To give the children the opportunities to pray, reflect, praise, empathise, reconcile and grow in knowledge and understanding.
To develop an appreciation, both in an educational and in a spiritual sense, of the Eucharist and Mass.
To encourage the children to realise that worship is relevant to their lives.
To enable children to progress along their personal faith journey.

Objectives

Throughout the year children will experience a variety of celebrations when they come together to worship. These will include Holy day liturgies, Mass, Sacramental preparation, Harvest, Penitential services, Non-eucharistic liturgies and Here I Am themed celebrations.

These celebrations provide the opportunity to explore the different experiences, feelings and emotions that are close to the hearts of our children, whilst also demonstrating the strong links with the life of Jesus.

In addition there are regular acts of collective worship:

Whole school collective worship and reflection on the week's Gospel each Monday led by the Headteacher.

Whole school achievement assembly with prayers each Friday led by the Head/Deputy.

Key Stage assemblies led by key stage staff each week.

Whole school prayers and hymn practice as necessary led by a senior teacher or the R.E and Music Coordinators.

Class led assemblies (R.E based) each term.

Here I Am celebration assemblies for the whole school on a termly basis.

When there are exceptions to the daily routine, teachers lead their classes in prayer and quiet reflection.

There is an implicit spiritual dimension to all forms of Collective Worship, culminating always in prayer. Visual and auditory aids are used, including artefacts, posters, candles, reflective music and hymns.

Prayer

Children are encouraged to develop an active participation in prayer through a gradual, nurturing process, which may begin in the home. For some children, St Gregory's School provides the most important experience of faith community. A sense of belonging – to the school as a worshipping community and to the church within the parish – is considered an essential foundation for prayer and is fostered throughout the child's years at St Gregory's.

Opportunities for prayer are created through formal and informal settings allowing the child to explore a variety of methods of spontaneous, private and group prayer and to learn traditional prayers.

At St Gregory's we promote an appreciation of prayer and participation in prayer through the use of appropriate focal points such as:

Silence	Music
Songs	Singing
Scripture	Visual e.g. candles, flowers etc.
Images	Artefacts
Posters	Hymns

To enable children to grow confidently along their journey to know God, we invite Jesus into our lives especially at prayer time when we create an atmosphere for praying together which encourages:

- Open discussions
- Empathy
- Reflection
- Listening
- Expression
- Making choices
- Praise
- Celebration

Prayer and liturgical celebrations are firmly rooted in our Mission Statement as all members of our school community strive to place Christ at the heart of all we do.