

# St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy



With God's Guidance, we Love, Learn, Respect and Forgive.



**Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust**

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy** -

|                             |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Implementation              | Whole Staff                                                                         |
| Monitoring                  | Mrs Julie Spencer and Mrs Clair Dedman                                              |
| Written                     | 07.10.26                                                                            |
| Signed (Head Teacher)       |  |
| Signed (Chair of Governors) |  |
| Review Date                 | October 2028                                                                        |

*“For where two or three come together in my name,  
I am there with them.” (Matt 18:20)*

The life of the school is underpinned by the school's mission statement:

*'At St Joseph's, with God's guidance, we love, learn, respect and forgive.'*

### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic School names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit

### **Legal requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all children. We fulfill this through whole school celebrations of the word, class assemblies, whole school Masses, class celebrations of the word, personal prayer and Lectio Divina.

### **The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School**

Prayer and Liturgy in our school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

### **The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and Liturgy in St Joseph's Catholic Academy aims to provide opportunity for all pupils, staff and parents:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

### **Principles**

All acts of prayer in our school will be deliberate and purposeful and will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- be respectful and dignified; children will be expected to behave reverently and engage fully.
- To include parents, grandparents and the wider community when appropriate.

### **Planning, content and celebration**

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Religious Education Directory, feast days, 'word of the week', the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD family fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

An Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) is completed in the Pentecost term, planning provision for the coming academic year.

### **Timetable of Prayer and Liturgy**

|                                                                                   |                                                                        |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Daily prayers                                                                     | Four times a day<br>(morning, before and after lunch and at home time) | Whole class                                      |
|                                                                                   | Spontaneous prayer                                                     | Individual                                       |
| Class prayer – Personal prayer, Lectio Divina, child-led Celebration of the Word. | Tue/Wed/Thurs<br>(At a time that is suitable for each class)           | Whole class                                      |
| Whole school Celebration of the Word                                              | Mon/ Fri                                                               | Whole school                                     |
| Staff prayer                                                                      | Monday morning briefing                                                | All school staff                                 |
| Whole school Mass                                                                 | Timetable of masses – approx. once a month                             | Whole school<br>Parents / grandparents<br>Parish |
| Class -led Celebration of the Word                                                | Mon - rota                                                             | Whole school<br>Parents/ family of class leading |
| Class join Mass at St Joseph's Church                                             | Tue -rota                                                              | Whole class<br>Parish                            |
| Chaplaincy led lunchtime prayer                                                   | Mon lunchtime                                                          | Whole year group                                 |
| Chaplaincy led Celebration of the Word                                            | Mon - rota                                                             | Whole school                                     |

Our chaplaincy team, with the support of the Chaplain, plan and lead some whole school Celebration of the Word according to the liturgical calendar.

A small group of children from each class plan and lead a class Celebration of the Word each week. The children also experience personal prayer and Lectio Divina each week within their class.

Each child, from Year 1 upwards, has their own prayer journal where they can reflect and record spontaneous prayer.

### **Recording**

Class Celebration of the Word is recorded on a liturgy planner which is kept in a class celebration of the word file. Examples of other prayer times are also kept within this file.

A reflection sheet is completed after class Celebrations of the Word. Whole school Celebrations of the word are reflected on by the class who will deliver the next Celebration of the Word.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and are appropriate to the children's age and understanding of their faith. Opportunities for children to participate will be maximized. The wider school community will be invited to attend Mass throughout the year.

### **Policy monitoring and evaluation**

This policy is monitored by the RE subject lead and is evaluated and reviewed by staff and governors every two years.

**Date of next review: October 2028**