



St Herbert's RC Primary School

PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by Governors on: 20.03.2024

Date to be reviewed: Spring 2025

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body: *P Devine (Chair)*

St Herbert's RC Primary School

Prayer and Worship Policy

This policy is set within the context of the School Mission Statement:

"Strong in Faith, Hope and Love, for the Common Good"

and the School Ethos:

"By loving one another as God loves us, we can achieve spiritually and academically"

***Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
(Jeremiah 29:12)***

Rationale

St Herbert's RC Primary School is a family where Christ is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is made in the image and likeness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and, therefore, everyone is loved, respected, cared for and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Celebration of the Word is an integral part of school life where all our school family is given opportunities to deepen their relationship with God.

As a Catholic school we are called to witness as a worshipping community. Worship is at the very heart of our school community and enriches our religious experience. The nature of this worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

At St. Herbert's School different faiths are respected and Celebration of the Word is inclusive.

Aims

Celebration of the Word in our school aims to:

- Place worship at the centre of the children's lives and in its rightful place in the curriculum. As such it will be planned like any other subject.
- Develop children's awareness of God's presence in their lives and of His love for them.
- Form a loving relationship with God our Father, as Creator, God the Son, as Brother and God the Holy Spirit, as Friend and contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Foster spiritual dialogue with God by building upon the children's natural spontaneous expression of joy, wonder, care, concern, thanks, devotion, sorrow, sadness, anger, fear etc. awakened through the children's growing awareness of themselves, others and their world.
- Support children to give glory and praise to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit through a range of opportunities given to them, so that they will experience many different forms of praying which include: formal prayers, which are part of the Catholic tradition, informal prayers, singing, drama, silent prayers and spontaneous prayer.

- Give children a positive liturgical experience, appropriate to their age, ability and background.
- Celebrate the major events of the Liturgical Calendar.
- Experience a sense of belonging to a small community which is part of a larger community.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Make time to 'wonder at', to 'come to terms with', 'give worth to' and celebrate achievements.

To fulfil these aims, the content and delivery is planned using the following:

- Reference to the Church's seasons.
- Ten Ten Prayer and Worship Resources
- Diocesan Prayer and Worship Planner for Children.
- Feast days and significant dates.
- Scripture as a focus in most acts of worship.
- Age appropriate prayers and hymns.
- Pupil involvement in preparation, organisation and leadership, appropriate to their age and ability.

Organisation

Every child participates in daily worship in some form:

Assemblies

- Twice a week we gather (typically Monday and Friday), as a whole school, and combine acts of worship with assembly to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework and children's achievements and attendance are celebrated.
- Once a year, each year group leads an assembly to which parents are invited.

Prayer and Reflection

- When children do not participate in a whole school or Key Stage assembly, Celebration of the Word takes place in every class.
- Through the use of the Diocesan planning resources, some sessions are child led.
- The GIFT team often lead reflection tasks throughout the school, this allows them to be seen as faith leaders by their peers.
- Twice a year the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes participate in a Celebration of the Word celebration with the Parish Priest.
- Devotional reflections are held at the beginning of each Staff Inset Day.

Mass

- The whole school attends Mass in the Parish Church at the beginning and at the end of each term. In addition, Mass is shared on Holy Days of obligation and special feast days.
- Twice a year, each class in KS2 attends Mass in Church.

A typical week at St. Herbert's looks like:

- Monday: Whole school worship assembly, sharing The Gospel of The Lord.
- Tuesday: Classroom based Celebration of the Word
- Wednesday: Pupil led Celebration of the Word
- Thursday: Classroom based Celebration of the Word
- Friday: Whole school celebration assembly, celebrating our God given gifts and talents.

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Monitoring and Review

- Celebration of the Word is monitored by the Headteacher, RE Leader and Prayer & Liturgy Leader. The RE Leader also liaises with the RE Governor who has a responsibility to monitor Celebration of the Word in the school.
- At each Full Governing Body meeting the RE Leader presents a report on the Catholic Life of the school so the governors are fully informed of any developments.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy.

All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit For This Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Assessment Data	Name of child Assessment data	To monitor progress and plan for improvement.	Teaching Staff	Held digitally on Google teamdrives.	Held on digital file throughout the child's time at the school. Passed onto new school when moving.

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has few/No data compliance requirements	Has a moderate level of data compliance requirements	Has a high level of data compliance requirements
✓		