



*Through God's grace, a community growing in
knowledge and understanding*

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School

Religious Education, Prayer and Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

“We believe that all learning is about God. As such, the teaching and learning of Religious Education is at the very heart of our curriculum. While RE exists as a discrete subject area in its own right, the skills, concepts, attitudes and beliefs learned in the subject permeate every area of life at St. Laurence School. In addition RE presents pupils with academic demands and challenges equal to those of other curriculum areas”

(adapted from the Statement on Religious Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops’ Conference 2002).

In January 2016, school adopted the revised diocesan RE Curriculum. This has been reviewed to ensure deeper challenge and coverage using both the Come and See programme and the Way the Truth and the Life

This policy provides a framework through which the school expresses its prayer life. The governors recognise their responsibility to nurture and support the prayer life of the children and the school community. We recognise that young children have a natural aptitude for prayer. They are open to God and respond in joy, wonder, anger, disappointment and elation to the world around them.

Collective worship is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic ethos. The school holds a daily act of collective worship, enabling the children and staff to come together to re-focus our day with God at the centre.

2. Religious Education (RE)

2.1 Aims of Religious Education

Through Religious Education we aim to:

- help pupils to grow in confidence in God's love
- continue to develop their sense of awe, wonder and reverence in the world around them
- help children in their search for the meaning of life through the way in which God reveals himself in Christ, developing an understanding of the Gospel
- teach RE in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- provide opportunities for children to celebrate their faith through liturgy, sacrament and prayer
- develop a respect for each other and all people, including those of different faith and cultural backgrounds
- contribute to the child's understanding of morality, choice and responsibility for their present, youth and adult life
- foster in all the understanding of God's Kingdom through work in our local and wider community
- foster in all the desire and importance to care for God's world
- ensure the liturgical year is reflected in the life and activities of the school
- develop an understanding of other world faiths
- strengthen the relationship between home, parish and other Catholic schools
- ensure RE has equal status to that given to all core subjects in the curriculum
- provide ongoing professional development for all staff so that they have the skills and knowledge to teach the curriculum and opportunities to reflect on their own

faith and spirituality.

2.2 The Role of the RE leader:

- To develop the spiritual life of the school and extend the Catholic ethos.
- To play a significant role in strengthening the links between home, school and parish. This includes liaising with Parish with regard to the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- To monitor, assess and advise on the planning, teaching and learning within RE.
- To ensure the availability and suitable use of resources
- To organise The First Holy Communion Programme for Year 3 including the sacrament of Reconciliation
- To organise Advent and Lent Reconciliation services for whole school.
- To organise staff retreats
- To support the induction of new staff in relation school expectations in relation to curriculum and Catholic life of the school:

2.3 RE Assessment

Teachers use assessment for learning practice to make continual assessments throughout lessons which they use to reflect upon their teaching and the children's learning. This formative assessment allows teacher's to build upon children's subject knowledge and understanding continually throughout the year. Teachers' are also expected to make more formal summative judgements against the standards as described in the 'Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales'. Evaluation of these assessments allows staff to monitor the overall progress that the children are making as they move through the school and continue their religious journey in the Catholic faith.

2.4 .RE Time Allocation

About 10% of the teaching timetable must be given to RE:

Key Stage one =2 hours

Key Stage two =2 hours 30 minutes.

Our acts of collective worship are not included in this designated curriculum time.

2.5 Planning

- Teachers prepare and follow medium term plans based on the amended Diocesan scheme.
- Teachers plan for a range of learning opportunities, including discussion and different ways of recording work.
- Recorded work (written and pictorial) should be of a high standard
- The main focus of RE at St. Laurence School is on knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.
- In the autumn and summer term two weeks are devoted to the learning about other World Religions.
- Teachers plan with the RE leader for visits, such as retreats and to both our Parish church and the cathedral

3 Prayer

3.1 What is Prayer?

Prayer is:

- simply being conscious of the presence of God

- a personal relationship with God
- the raising up of the mind and heart to God
- praising and thanking God and asking for his support
- being open and attentive to God
fostering community and a sense of being one with others and with God
- an expression of faithful love

3.2 With Christ at the centre, children at the heart, our aims in prayer are:

- to create and maintain a stimulating and appropriate environment where prayer can be fostered and developed fully.
- to develop in children the awareness of God's presence in all of creation.
- that children may learn reverence for themselves, others and all things
- to develop an openness to God - to know we are all unconditionally loved by God.
- to give children opportunities to use/create their own prayer, both formal and informal
- to teach children common Christian prayers, introduced progressively from Foundation to year 6
- to begin and end each day with prayer

Appendix 1 contains the list of prayers to be taught from Foundation to Y6.

4 Collective Worship

4.1 Aims of our Collective Worship

Collective worship in our school aims to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff to participate fully in:

- Contemplating the mystery of God
- reflecting on spiritual and moral issues
- exploring their own beliefs
- responding to and celebrating life and God's environment
- experiencing a sense of belonging and developing community spirit
- developing a common ethos and shared values
- enriching religious experience
- growing in liturgical understanding and development
- reinforcing prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- taking time out to "wonder at", "to come to terms with" and "to give worth to"

4.2 Collective Worship in our school

Collective worship in our school follows the Liturgical year and takes a variety of forms which includes:

- Sacramental celebration
- Other celebrations eg Holy Week, Harvest, Welcome Liturgy
- Reflection, including retreats
- Meditation Assembly
- Silent prayer
- Hymns and scriptural readings
- Cross-curricular activities e.g. art and drama
- Whole school and class groupings
- Gospel Value Assemblies
- Stay and Pray sessions in Advent and Lent

4.3 Celebrating Mass

Whole school Eucharist celebrations in school highlight special occasions and are celebrated with children, staff, parents and parishioners. Children also have the opportunity to participate in class Masses.

5 Preparation for the Sacraments

Children in Year 3 and above have the opportunity to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. They follow the 'I Believe' programme and are prepared by our catechetical teacher. Parents are fully involved in the programme.

6 Including Everyone in the Religious Life of our School

We ensure all children of all faith backgrounds are given the same opportunities within Religious Education. Similarly, all children will be given the same opportunity to take part in the prayer life of the school. Our Religious Education and prayer life are predominantly Catholic. At the same time, we celebrate and value the contribution that children of other faiths make to everyone's spiritual development. We welcome the opportunity to explore differences and similarities between different faiths; we recognise that such exploration provides everyone involved with the opportunity to strengthen their faith.

7 Review of Policy

This policy was reviewed in Autumn 2019 by staff and governors.
Approved by Local Governing Body on 3rd October 2019
Next review due: Autumn 2022

Appendix 1: Prayers taught from Foundation to Year 6

Aged 3 to 5

Sign of the cross *

Hail Mary

Our Father

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Simple responses at Mass

Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)

Simple litanies of thanks and praise.

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath

Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Aged 5 to 7 – All those listed above, and:

Sign of the cross *

Our Father*

Hail Mary *

Glory be to the Father *

Morning Offering *

Grace at Meals *

Act of Sorrow *

Mass responses *

Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, Prayers of Intercession, Children's Eucharistic Prayer II)

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayer for Lent (This is the wood of the cross)

Simple examination of conscience/ review of the day

Aged 7-11 – All those listed above, and:

I confess *

Angelus *

Benedictus (Luke; 1:67-79)

Magnificat (Luke; 1:46-55)

Eternal rest *

Act of Contrition *

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Prayers at Mass:

Penitential rite

Glory to God (Gloria)

Offertory prayers

Eucharistic prayers for Masses with children

Holy holy, holy *

Lamb of God *

Rite of dismissal

Litany of the Saints

Prayers used for sacramental rites

Prayers from the liturgy for special feasts

Funeral Mass prayers

Blessing and giving of ashes

Saints' prayers, for example, St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi

Some simple phrases from the psalms *

Many of the most common prayers can be found on the Widgit symbol supported text site.

http://www.widgit.com/resources/classroom/i_call_you_friends