

# Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School



An Academy School Part of  
The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust



## Worship Policy 2024

Our Mission Statement:

We are a catholic school. We strive to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world.  
We follow Jesus.

Date Approved by Governing Body:	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Date To be Reviewed by:	Autumn 2027
Signed By:	Richard Sharman - Chair of Governors

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Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School exists to serve its Parish and Community by promoting excellence in academic, creative and spiritual learning.

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church the schools seeks to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure loved and respected.

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School encourages all:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and recognise the person of Christ in others.
- Through WITNESS to celebrate the gospel messages including justice and peace.

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School works to promote excellence in its pupils both academically and spiritually. We seek to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure and immersed in the love of Jesus. Our child-centred curriculum exists to allow for all children to reach their full potential and develop their independence.

### **Introduction**

We believe that worship within our school exists to build the relationships between the children and God. We encourage our children to worship in a variety of ways and to embrace the opportunities to explore their faith journey with Christ. As rounded individuals, they are then able to extend their opportunities beyond the classroom keeping Christ at the centre.

### *Legislation for worship:*

1989 legislation laid down the following criteria:

All schools must begin the day with an act of worship that should be inclusive, educational, contribute to spiritual development and have a sense of occasion Catholic Tradition.

At the heart of Catholic life is the practice of starting each day, or beginning any new piece of work (e.g. the school day) with prayer. Our school makes a point of dedicating each day and its work to God, who is at the heart of our school.

**We invite all members of our community to participate in Collective Worship, regardless of belief, ability or background, and we work hard to make it relevant and rewarding for all.**

### **Mission Statement**

Our Mission Statement has been part of the fabric of the school for several years. It continues to reflect the ethos and values of our school today.

It is revisited annually and is a thread linking our Cultural Eco System to all that we do. We reflect and contemplate on its meaning to us. The Mission Statement is visible in every room throughout the school and as a mural at the entrance to the building. It is a focus for prayer and is shared at every school Mass.

The Mission Statement is the focus of the first worship and learning in school each September and thereafter is the focus of each day in all that we teach, learn and pray. When our older children attend their residential trip we take copies of our Mission Statement to display as it is part of the foundation of our school.

### **Assemblies**

Whole School or Key Stage Assemblies take place every Monday. All staff are present. These assemblies are staff and visitor led. Themes introduced on Mondays may be followed on throughout in Class Collective Worship throughout the week. There is a great emphasis on developing our mission statement through reflecting on Gospel values, on moral development through sharing examples of kindness, consideration and good behaviour. Self-esteem and responsibility are promoted. Children share their talents and achievements. We are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and this is also reflected in our worship when linked to Gospel values.

Over the course of the year, each class leads a special assembly. Parents are invited to join in this worship. In the remaining weeks, the R.E. Leader or Senior Leaders take the assembly introducing RE topics, sharing Gospel readings or talking about living our Catholic Social Teaching values in and out of school.

### **Class Worship**

Each class gathers together for a period of Collective Worship on days when no school Collective Worship takes place. The duration of this gathering depends on the age of the children but usually lasts around 10-15 minutes. All classes have a focus area which includes a prayer table, crucifix/cross and holy water. Children are encouraged to lead and plan acts of worship, as far as possible, using a range of suitable resources.

In EYFS and KS1 resources are available to the children including scripture readings, prayers and music. They are encouraged to select appropriate resources around a theme, as well as choosing or constructing their own prayers. From Year 2 onwards, children are given increasing responsibility to ensure that by the end of Key Stage 2, children are confident in planning, delivering and evaluating appropriate Collective Worship.

Staff are supported to develop Collective Worship along with their teaching practice and CPD is provided by our RE Leader.

### **Monitoring and Guidance to New Staff**

Assemblies are monitored by Senior Leadership and the R.E. Coordinator, through learning walks and informal and formal observations of class assemblies. All assemblies are reviewed and evaluated by senior leaders with feedback and direction is given when needed.

New staff are given formal CPD by the R.E. Coordinator and further informal help as required.

### **Masses**

The whole school gather for Mass in the school hall or in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. We mark the beginning of each term, Holy Days of Obligation and Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day with Mass. Children are involved in planning, for example, writing Bidding Prayers and delivering the Liturgy.

Year groups and Key stages attend masses within the school year. The staff and children prepare the worship together and take responsibility for many aspects of the celebration. These are spread through the liturgical year and focus on a variety of age-appropriate themes.

### **Chaplaincy**

The Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead, and Father Martin is an integral support to us and is available to say Mass whenever possible.

The First Communion programmes take place within the parish. The school supports this wholeheartedly through direction and celebrating this special occasion with a Going Forth Mass. This allows the children from all parishes to celebrate mass together in their First Communion outfits emphasising to all the importance of this milestone.

### **Reconciliation Services**

Throughout the school year but especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent, children are given the opportunity to reflect on their relationships with each other, their family and God and to say sorry. This is completed through discussion, prayer, music and a range of liturgy.

The school seeks to support Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in its work preparing our children for Reconciliation and Eucharist. There is a whole school celebration assembly to congratulate children who have made their First Holy Communion and the school marks this occasion by presenting each child with a gift to mark the occasion.

### **Liturgy**

An Ash Wednesday service is celebrated in school when it occurs in term time. We distribute Ashes to the whole school as part of a School Service as we mark the beginning of Lent.

We mark the month of Our Lady, May, with an annual May Procession and a focus on key events in the life of Mary. The classes each create a bouquet of flowers to present to Our Lady. These are then gifted to the local care homes to enjoy and take part in our community celebrations.

Year Five children lead an assembly in November on the theme of Remembrance. The whole school take part in a minute silence with the nation on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, when this occurs on a school day. This is part of a year 5 Liturgy of Remembrance.

## **Prayer**

The prayer life of the school is enhanced through both the staff and children. All pupils are invited to join prayer within the school and the classroom and to lead prayers where suitable.

### **Formal prayer**

Formal prayer is recognised in school with our daily prayers led in class by the Prayer Leaders. These are used in every class and allow all children to realise the continuity of their faith within our school environment. The children pray at the beginning and the end of each day as well as before and after lunch. There is a range of prayer resources available for the classroom and whole school prayer time.

### **Liturgical prayer**

The Liturgical year is honoured throughout the school. Our prayer tables in class and around the school reflect the liturgical colours. We ensure the children use the seasons of the church within the school focussing on the Rosary when appropriate as well as Stations of the Cross during Lent. Remembrance prayers are written and family members remembered during the month of November. There is a Rosary Club in May and this is well attended by both Catholic and non-Catholic pupils.

### **Reflective prayer**

There are many times when the children are given a chance to be reflective in their worship, both within the classroom and the school itself. Zara's garden offers a thoughtful area as well as our prayer tables in class allowing for quiet time. Reflective prayer can emerge from a wide range of learning contexts and may be appropriately drawn together during class prayer time. Each class has the opportunity to share and record their own prayers in the class Book of Prayers. Prayers are also shared in communal areas throughout the year.

## **Hymn Practice**

We have a strong musical tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes School. Music is a central element of our Collective Worship. There is a weekly Hymn Practice for EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The children practice and learn a wide range of traditional and modern hymns and songs. These are then used in whole school, key stage and class collective worship. CDs, online music and instruments are available. The hymns taught relate to the Church season and the words are reflected on with the children to develop their understanding further.

## **Christmas / Easter / Pentecost Celebration**

### **Christmas**

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 perform a Christmas play with songs, the basis of which, is always brought back to the Nativity story. Year 2 share a live Nativity Service with parents using scripture and music/hymns. The School Choir visit local care homes to perform carols to the residents and sing at the Parish.

## **Easter**

The events of Holy Week and Easter are marked in school with appropriate whole school liturgies culminating in the Way of the Cross prior to the end of the Spring Term. Stations of the Cross are reflected upon and followed through the school hall visual representations. All year groups complete the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. If Holy Week falls in the school holiday it is marked before the school breaks up.

## **Pentecost**

Pentecost is marked by whole school assemblies

## **Leavers Mass**

There is a Mass at the end of the school year for children and staff who are moving on. Year Six pupils are given the opportunity to plan the Mass.

## **R.E. Inset**

There is a formal whole school CPD annually for Collective Worship. Expectations for RE, including collective worship are shared with all staff every September. There are informal reminders at staff meetings. Staff are given feedback following monitoring.

## **Resources including artefacts**

Each class has a prayer focus area that the children help to organise and have ownership of. There is a cross/crucifix in each classroom and around the school. The prayer tables in class each have a Holy Land cross. There is an RE Box in every class which includes things such as liturgical cloths, holy water, crosses etc. All classes have age-appropriate Bibles and other printed resources.

## **Displays**

Displays are used in each class, hall and communal areas as a focus for prayer and Collective Worship. In class, these displays will include keywords linked to the topic and the Big Question to support the theme itself. The R.E. subject display shows a range of tasks, topics and work completed by children linked to the liturgical year.

## **Scripture**

Scripture is prominent in the learning that takes place around the school. It is used within the lessons and features clearly within Collective Worship. Class assemblies can include children sharing scripture through role-play or dance.

Scripture links are made prior when a religious theatre group comes into school to lead us in reflection and direction.

## **Home / School / Parish**

There are strong links with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. With the support of Father Martin, school and the Our Lady of Lourdes community are active participants in Parish Life.

**Governors**

All Governors, including the link Governor, are kept informed by the Head Teacher. The RE Lead gives regular updates to the SLT and is in regular dialogue with the Head and Deputy regarding worship across the school.