

## St. Martin's Catholic Primary School



### Collective Worship/RE, Prayer and Liturgy Policy

*This policy should be read in the light of:*

- ❖ **Our Mission** to foster the personal development and academic achievement of each child by providing a caring and creative environment that adheres to the foundations and values of the Catholic Faith.
- ❖ **Our Vision** to inspire all to lead, through love and service, the life of purpose and excellence that God wants for us.

Approved by Committee:

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March 16

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Approved by FGB

Next Review date:

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October 17

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# **St Martin's Catholic Primary School**

## **Collective Worship/RE, Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

### **Statement of Aims and Beliefs (extracts from our Mission Statement)**

1. St Martins aims to put prayer, worship and Liturgy at the centre of each child's school experience. The school aims to foster real links between home, parish and school as well as the wider community and Collective Worship is one way in which we can develop these links.

### **Legal Requirements**

2. We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father in daily 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.

3. Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray throughout the day. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

### **Aims**

4. The aims of collective worship are to:

- Contemplate something of the mystery of God;
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- Explore their own beliefs;
- Respond to and celebrate life;
- Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit;
- Develop a common ethos and shared values;

- Enrich the religious experience;
- Grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- Reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition;
- Reinforce positive attitudes / support the Gospel Values upon which our behaviour policy is based;
- Provide opportunities for all members of the school community to worship together - to listen, to understand, to reflect and to pray;
- Take time out to wonder at and explore our world.

## **Principles**

5. All acts of Worship at St Martin's will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic Character;
- 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.

6. In order to do this, celebrations will be:

- Kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience;
- Short and appropriately paced;
- Simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in variety of settings.

## **Whole School Structure**

7. Each act of communal prayer and Liturgy should follow a four-fold structure; gathering together, listening, responding and going forth. Each gathering should last no longer than twenty minutes maximum and staff should be present. Friday's Praise Assembly led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) celebrates the children's achievements during the week, within this there should be a 'listening' moment where the children hear the word of God followed by an opportunity to 'respond'. The assembly should end with a prayerful reflection and where opportunity allows, a hymn.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

8. Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

## **Eucharist**

9. Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses;
- Class Masses and Liturgies;
- Key Stage Liturgies

10. The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time. Year Three will attend and participate in the First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass held each year at St Michael's Church in Sonning Common. Year Six will attend and participate in the Catholic Cluster Leaver's Mass and at school. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Advent and Lent with Penitential Services planned by each class, followed by individual confessions with the Parish Priest. Staff will be encouraged to support the children's faith journey by attending the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses. Staff will be encouraged to be an active part of the Catholic cluster by attending the Catholic Cluster Masses in replace of the staff meeting that week.

### **Liturgies**

11. Children and staff pray together at the beginning and end of each morning and afternoon session. When there is no assembly or Mass each class teacher should, together with a group of children, plan and participate in a worship session. This time must be additional to the RE lessons. All classes will have a well-presented, liturgically themed, prayer area, which will be the focal point of the class prayers.

### **Definitions**

**Liturgy:** The four-fold structure of gathering together, listening to God's word, responding and going forth.

**Worship:** To devote time to offering our thoughts and prayers to God.