

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Collective Worship Policy

We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus

Date: April 2021

Review: April 2022

MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy were founded to pass on to the children the faith heritage of the local Catholic Community. Each child is valued as a unique individual, a child of God, made in the image of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In partnership with parents and parish and with God's grace, the school tries to discern and help the child to develop fully as a person with particular gifts and aptitudes. Guided and challenged by Gospel values, the school aims to provide a community in which the child will grow and experience the love of God, self and neighbour, fulfilling our school mission statement,

'We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus.'

Our 4 school values are;

Trust

Compassion

Forgiveness

Peace

Our staff and pupils endeavour to live out our chosen values in all that we say and all that we do.

Why collective worship is important

Britain is a multicultural and multi-faith society. In this context, collective worship remains an essential part of the life of every school, for community schools and academies just as much as in denominational faith schools. Many schools continue to hold acts of collective worship because of the value to the school community and to children's broader educational development. We live out our mission statement and values every time we celebrate collective worship.

Collective worship offers all schools the chance to explore and understand the values at the heart of their ethos. From forgiveness and humility, to gratitude and justice, collective worship gives pupils a space and time to reflect.

If it is a part of a school's routine, collective worship provides a shared language of values to build a close-knit cohesive community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, the time set aside in the school day for reflection provides everyone with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

Why collective worship important at St. Augustine's

At St. Augustine's, collective worship is far more than a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils' moral and spiritual development. Collective worship is an important part of our school's distinctive ethos.

Taking part in daily collective worship helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the core values and symbols of Christianity. In Catholic schools, pupil participation and engagement in worship are important criteria in the diocesan inspection of Catholic education, not least during the daily act of collective worship. From our Reception class to Year 6, pupils are invited to play an active part in collective worship.

Throughout the year, our school community comes together to celebrate important events in the Church's calendar, such as Lent and Advent, as well as the start and end of the academic year. Through regular prayer

and worship, including Mass, the rhythm of the Church's year becomes a normal part of school life and each pupil's life. These activities are integral to the Catholic identity and life of St. Augustine's.

Acts of Worship

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers - Acts 2:42

The primary focus of an Act of Worship is to create a powerful and prayerful experience where young people can encounter God and engage with their faith.

Acts of Worship should be fundamentally accessible to all, regardless of belief and background and should provide students with interesting and varied opportunities to experience both contemporary and traditional prayer.

Liturgies throughout the liturgical year

When important dates in the liturgical year fall within term time, specially prepared liturgies are celebrated by the community. These should be planned, prepared and delivered with the same high standards and should make special effort to celebrate the Catholic liturgical tradition in an inclusive and accessible way.

End of Term Liturgies

The community should come together in prayer at the end of each term. This liturgy should tie in directly with the liturgical season and provide an opportunity for all members of the community to give thanks and celebrate that time of year. A separate opportunity to mark academic achievement will also be held at the end of term. Students and Staff are encouraged and supported to take an equal part in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship throughout the school year. Staff should model high quality collective worship to the students and students should be nurtured, praised and encouraged to lead collective worship with their peers.

Planning & Preparation

Acts of Worship should be thoughtfully prepared and tie in with the prayer theme across the school that week. These should be disseminated with the Act of Worship rota each term. Acts of worship should be rooted in scripture it should feature prominently, and connect directly with the theme. Acts of Worship should be planned using the 'Be Inspirational' planning sheets located on the G-drive in the Collective worship folder and care should be given to ensure that each Act of Worship contains something to see, something to hear, something to think about and something to do, to ensure that it is inclusive and engaging. A calendar of collective worship themes is planned by the R.E. lead and shared with staff before the start of each term.

Delivery

An Act of Worship should always begin and end with the Sign of the Cross to remind ourselves that Christ is at the centre of our faith community. In all Acts of Worship, it is important that an

appropriate atmosphere representative of the liturgical season is established. Notices and announcements should all be given out before the Act of Worship begins and where possible the students should be dismissed in a prayerful and meaningful way to carry the spirit of the experience into their day. Acts of Worship should be delivered with reverence and respect for the spiritual and liturgical content and, if appropriate, for the sacred spaces in which they are celebrated. Use of the altar/focus is encouraged as a focal point.

Evaluation and Development

Where possible, Acts of Worship should be evaluated, either informally through discussion and comment or using the Be Inspirational evaluation sheet. These should be regularly collected and collated through the Be Inspirational site or in the School Evidence Folder. The style and nature of our Acts of Worship should be continually open to the needs of the community and always be open to incorporating new ideas and experiences, whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos.

Masses

Mass is celebrated as often as possible and is open to Staff, Pupils and the Local Community. Whole school or class Masses are published as part of the whole-school calendar at the beginning of the academic year. Masses should involve all members of the community and where possible parts of the liturgy should be led by different members of the community. Time should be given to prepare and practice music as an integral part of the worship.

Prayer throughout the day

Prayer should naturally punctuate the school day and should be shared with all members of the community. Staff and Governors meetings should also start with a time of prayer and all those present should be invited to share in whatever way they feel comfortable.

Grace before Meals

At the end of the morning period, students and staff should pray together before going to lunch.

Celebrating the liturgical seasons

Special opportunity is given throughout the liturgical year to embrace the traditional prayers of the Church. During the months of October and May special opportunities to pray the Rosary will be provided and Stations of the Cross will be prayed during Lent.

Collective worship should celebrate and show the very best of our faith and be a tangible articulation of God's love for all regardless of differences in faith and beliefs.

Collective Worship – End of Year / phase expectations

Class collective worship			Other forms of prayer
Year group	Expectations	Resources	
Foundation stage	<p>Children to use Let Us Pray proforma and resources to plan and lead liturgies, facilitated and supported by an adult. All children to have opportunity to plan and lead a liturgy by the summer term.</p> <p>Whole class to evaluate liturgy, recorded on proforma.</p> <p>Teacher to explicitly model liturgy to children a least once a term.</p> <p>Advent/Lent Term – whole class planning</p> <p>Pentecost Term – group planning</p>	<p>Let us Pray cards and liturgy box</p> <p>Classroom resources</p> <p>Lion's Bible</p>	<p>1 minute meditation facilitated by adult</p> <p>Encourage opportunities for spontaneous prayer</p>
Early Phase (KSI)	<p>Children to use Let Us Pray proforma and resources to plan and lead liturgies, facilitated by adult.</p> <p>Children to plan and prepare focal point for worship according to liturgical season/Come and See topic.</p> <p>Beginning of Yr1 onwards, all children to plan liturgies in groups, facilitated by an adult.</p> <p>Yr2 to generate their own way of gathering to begin the liturgy.</p> <p>Whole class to evaluate liturgy, recorded on proforma.</p>	<p>Let us Pray cards and liturgy box</p> <p>Classroom resources</p> <p>KSI Bible</p> <p>Blank cards</p> <p>Access to music folder on staff works (from hymn practice)</p>	<p>2 minutes meditation facilitated by adult</p> <p>Lectio Divina introduced from Year 2, scripture sourced by adult, linked to liturgical year or Come and See topic, facilitated by adult</p> <p>Encourage opportunities for spontaneous prayer</p>
Middle Phase (yr3&4)	<p>Yr3 to generate their own way of gathering to begin the liturgy, and plan their own mission for children to complete the liturgy.</p> <p>Whole class to evaluate liturgy, recorded on proforma.</p> <p>Yr4 – Children to generate their own way of gathering to begin the liturgy, a response to the word, and plan their own mission for children to complete the liturgy.</p> <p>Children to use Extra-Ordo-Nary Liturgical Calendar and Open Bible to support planning of class liturgies from Pentecost</p>	<p>Let us Pray cards and liturgy box (move away from cards)</p> <p>Classroom resources</p> <p>KS2 Bible</p> <p>Blank cards</p> <p>Access to music folder on staff works (from hymn practice)</p> <p>Extra-Ordo-Nary Liturgical Calendar (yr4)</p> <p>Open Bible access (yr4)</p>	<p>3 minutes meditation led by school chaplain</p> <p>Yr3 - Lectio Divina scripture sourced by adult, linked to liturgical year or Come and See topic, facilitated by adult</p> <p>Yr4 – pupils select scripture linked to liturgical year or Come and See topic for Lectio Divina, led by children, supported by adult</p> <p>Encourage</p>

	Term (if suitable). Whole class to evaluate liturgy, recorded on proforma.		opportunities for spontaneous prayer
Upper Phase (yr5&6)	<p>Children to use Extra-Ordo-Nary Liturgical Calendar to support planning of class liturgies. Children to use Open Bible online resource to select a reading linked to the theme provided on liturgical calendar. Pupils to then find the passage in Bible to add to their prayer focus.</p> <p>Children to generate their own gather, response, word and mission according to the theme. They may use songs, actions, prayers, classroom resources within the liturgy. We encourage active participants throughout. This is overseen by an adult, and guided only when necessary. Evaluation is recorded on NDCYS proforma following whole class discussion. Children are encouraged to give reasons for their responses and recommendations.</p>	<p>Open Bible link on home screen KS2 Bible Liturgy box Extra-Ordo-Nary Liturgical Calendar Prayer area resources Access to YouTube/music folder on staff works NDCYS planning document NDCYS evaluation document</p>	<p>4-5 minutes meditation led by anyone in class Lectio Divina scripture sourced by pupils using Open Bible resource, linked to liturgical year or Come and See topic, completely child led Encourage opportunities for spontaneous prayer</p>