

# St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Collective Worship Policy

**‘Let all that you do be done in love’.**

**(1 Corinthians 16:14)**



# **I. Intent**

## **I.a. Our School Mission**

The mission of St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy is that of Jesus Christ; to build a teaching and learning community where we show due regard for the development and understanding of the uniqueness and dignity of each person, based on the Gospel values of love, justice, caring for others, aspiring to be the best you can be, mutual respect, honesty, acceptance and forgiveness. At St Augustine's, 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, the parish and with God's grace, we aim to provide a community in which children grow and experience the love of God, self, and neighbour, fulfilling our school mission statement:







**'Let all that you do be done in love'.  
(1 Corinthians 16:14)**

As a school community, we are committed to:

- ✓ contributing to the development of faith in the school community, recognising that each child comes with different experiences of their own faith and culture, which have value and are to be appreciated and built upon.
- ✓ striving to enhance and deepen a child's relationship with God through prayer, worship, and liturgy.
- ✓ building upon and developing the existing links with homes and parishes, encouraging, and developing good relationships with all children and adults who are involved in our school community.
- ✓ ensuring that the curriculum is appropriate to the perceived needs of the children and that the approach to teaching and learning will always be based on the attitudes and values of the Gospel.

## **I.b. Our School Virtues**

Our school virtues influence the whole school culture at St Augustine's. They shape everything we do, every decision we make, and are the central thread interwoven throughout our curriculum, our behaviour system and our pastoral support. Our pupils and staff endeavour to live these out every day.

-  Love and Respect
-  Friendship and Kindness
-  Love of Neighbour and Self-Control
-  Love of Learning and Determination
-  Hope and Confidence
-  Honesty and Forgiveness

## **I.c. Aims**

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 and is an important part of our school's Catholic ethos.

We believe that collective worship names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. In our Catholic school, it is particularly concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. Collective worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Collective Worship at St Augustine's aims to provide an opportunity for all staff and pupils:

- ❖ to encounter Christ in their daily lives
- ❖ to contemplate something of the mystery of God, giving thanks and praise to Him
- ❖ to reflect on and promote spiritual and moral values in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church
- ❖ to explore their own beliefs
- ❖ to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- ❖ to develop a common ethos and shared values
- ❖ to enrich religious experience
- ❖ to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- ❖ to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- ❖ to reinforce positive attitudes
- ❖ to participate fully
- ❖ to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

### **I.d. Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- ❖ give glory and honour to God
- ❖ keep scripture at the heart of each worship
- ❖ be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- ❖ be inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of belief and background
- ❖ 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

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- ❖ be child-led and child-friendly
- ❖ be relevant to the class and school in order to personalise the experience
- ❖ be time-sensitive and appropriately paced
- ❖ include a range of experiences offered in a variety of settings and in a variety of groupings
- ❖ be engaging and use a range of creative approaches such as dance, drama, art and song
- ❖ be welcoming to members of the wider school community

### **I.e. Statement of Requirement**

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, that is in accordance with the rights, practises, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2. Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles For Catholic Academies, February 2019).

Our school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar. Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

## 2. Implementation

***“For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.” Matthew 18:20.***

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and form part of routine gatherings for pupils and staff. We offer a variety of different types of Collective Worship at St Augustine’s including: Prayer; Celebrations of the Word; Liturgies; Christian meditation; Assembly; Sacraments; Devotions and Benediction. Pupils participate in them by, for example, reflecting in silence, joining community prayer with confidence and singing readily.

Prayer naturally punctuates the school day through our Morning, Lunchtime and Evening prayers (see Appendix 2). Staff meetings always start with a time of prayer and reflection, and all those present are invited to share in whatever way they feel comfortable.

We endeavour to provide prayer and liturgy opportunities that are engaging, of a high quality and accessible and relevant to pupils. Staff are increasingly confident in supporting pupils to plan and lead well-constructed prayer and liturgy.

### 2.a. Timetable

An overview of the different types of collective worship we offer at St Augustine’s:

	Type	Place	Time	Leader	Staffing	Evaluation
<b>M</b>	Whole School Celebration of the Word (Sunday’s Gospel)	Hall	9.00am	School Chaplain	All Staff	Pupils: using evaluation station
	Pupil-led Celebration of the Word	Classrooms	3.00pm	Pupils	All Staff	Pupils: in class
<b>T</b>	Hymn Practice	Hall	9.00am	CP/TC	KSI	OM (termly)
<b>W</b>	Class-led Celebration of the Word	Hall	9.00am	Classes on Rota	All Teachers	Pupils: using evaluation station
<b>Th</b>	Teacher-led Celebration of the Word	Hall	9.00am	Teachers on Rota	KS2	Pupils: using evaluation station
<b>F</b>	Celebration Assembly	Hall	12.45pm	JO	All Staff	N/A

### 2.b. Planning

At St Augustine’s, collective worship is thoughtfully planned by both staff and pupils, depending on the type of worship taking place.

Collective Worship is planned:

- ❖ with scripture as its focus
- ❖ using ‘let us pray’ resources where suitable
- ❖ with reference to the Church’s liturgical calendar
- ❖ linked to the RE ‘Come and See’ Curriculum where appropriate
- ❖ to include something to see, hear, think about and do, to ensure that it is inclusive and engaging
- ❖ to promote the ethos and mission of the school
- ❖ to develop pupils’ skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship with increasing independence (See Appendix 1)
- ❖ with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community

## 2.c. Delivering

Collective worship always begins and ends with the Sign of the Cross. At Saint Augustine's, when we light the candle, the leader begins with '*Jesus is here*' and we respond '*His spirit is with us*'. This reminds us that Christ is at the centre of our faith and our Christian community. Acts of Worship are 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 or a prayer focus is encouraged.

A record of collective worship is maintained through:

- ❖ our online platform, SeeSaw, where images, videos and comments are uploaded and shared with families
- ❖ a class worship journal which includes evidence of planning, leading and evaluating worships
- ❖ Wall displays and prayer areas around the school

## 2.d. Evaluating

Pupils, staff and families are regularly invited to evaluate collective worship at St Augustine's. Evaluations remind us that it's important to pause and reflect on our current practice, and they support us in further developing our planning and delivery of collective worship.

Pupils evaluate whole school and classed-based worships with increasing independence, appropriate for their age and ability. This can take the form of:

- ❖ Verbal feedback as a whole class
- ❖ Written feedback on templates
- ❖ Verbal and written SeeSaw comments

Staff regularly evaluate whole school acts of worship, which are then used to inform future planning and delivery of whole school worships.

Families are invited to evaluate masses and liturgies when they attend. This can be verbally or with a written comment.

## 2.e. Liturgical Calendar

At St Augustine's, our opportunities for collective worship reflect the liturgical seasons. Pupils follow the liturgical calendar closely and use this to inform the themes when planning their own Celebrations of the Word. Collective Worship is planned to recognise relevant themes and significant events in the church calendar.

An example of these might include:

- ❖ Month of Mary: Rosary club, Mary liturgy, Mary themed prayer spaces, Lectio Divina
- ❖ Harvest: CAFOD liturgy, missionary discipleship work, Fratelli Tutti
- ❖ Lent: Lenten Prayer Club, Stations of the Cross, Laudato Si, Lent Retreat Day
- ❖ Advent: Advent Prayer Club, Advent liturgy, Travelling Crib, Wreath Blessing

## **2.f. Mass**

***“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”. (Acts 2:42)***

We recognise and revere the most Holy Sacrament of the celebration of the Eucharist. We believe it is central to our roles as being members of the Body of Christ and the redeeming life graces and blessings it provides.

We firmly believe in the importance of celebrating the Mass by:

- ❖ Providing opportunities for school and parish masses throughout the academic year
- ❖ Celebrating Mass at the key times of the school year to highlight special occasions (such as St Augustine’s Day)
- ❖ Attending and celebrating Holy Days of Obligation with the Parish

## **2.g. Enrichment**

An addition to the routine opportunities for prayer and worship offered at St Augustine’s, we provide various enrichment opportunities.

For example:

- ❖ Prayer Area Activities
- ❖ Chaplaincy team activities during Advent and Lent
- ❖ Travelling crib
- ❖ Mary treasure hunt around school
- ❖ Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Advent and Lent Retreat Days
- ❖ CAFOD National Assemblies
- ❖ Themed days, such as CAFOD’s ‘Family Fast Friday’
- ❖ School Prayer Spaces and Prayer Garden
- ❖ Rosary Club
- ❖ Advent and Lent Prayer Club
- ❖ Adoration
- ❖ Reconciliation

## **2.h. Chaplaincy**

The Chaplaincy team is made up of a group of children from across the school who volunteer to assist in supporting the Collective Worship and Catholic Life of the school. The Chaplaincy team is led by the School Lay Chaplain and Catholic Life Leader.

The Chaplaincy team have responsibilities within their classes, including assisting in planning and leading Worships, organising evaluations and evidencing liturgies appropriately. They are involved in planning and leading whole school liturgies during the school year, but especially during Advent, Lent and Eastertide. The Chaplaincy team are also involved in missionary discipleship projects and outreach work, such as George’s Food Hub.

## **3. Impact**

### **3.a. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, completed by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator alongside pupils, staff, parents, clergy and governors. Monitoring activities include but are not limited to: observations; pupil interviews; staff questionnaires; prayer area monitoring; worship journal and SeeSaw 'book-looks'. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

### **3.b. Policy Monitoring**

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and designated governor, and is evaluated and reviewed by staff and governors every two years.

### **3.c. Responsibility**

#### **Governance**

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- There is a named person who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school.
- The prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders.
- There is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

#### **Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- They work in partnership with the leader for prayer and liturgy.
- Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to.
- There are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in school.

#### **Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- There is an annual plan of provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of sacraments.
- There is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- Pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation.
- Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils.
- Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required.
- Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities.

- Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies.
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the head teacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school.
- There is collaboration with local clergy and parishes.
- Liaison with the Diocesan Advisory service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

### **3.d. Training and Formation**

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy, and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

### **3.d. The Right of Withdrawal**

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy open brackets (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). The Headteacher will maintain a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

### **Appendices**

- ❖ Appendix 1: Collective Worship Progression Document
- ❖ Appendix 2: St Augustine's Daily Prayers