

# St John's Catholic Primary School, Bridgnorth



*"I am the vine you are the branches" – John, 15.*

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

*Reviewed: Autumn 2024*

*Reviewed by: G. Welsh*

*Next review date: Autumn 2026*

We use the language 'Prayer and Liturgy' in place of the term 'Collective Worship' in our daily life, practices and policies.

### **Vision**

At St. John's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Christian worship is centred on giving glory, honour, praise, and thanks to God. We strive to meet the religious and educational needs of all our children, including those from supportive Catholic families, those for whom school may be their first or only experience of church, those from other Christian traditions, and those from other faith backgrounds.

### **Legal Requirements**

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 believe that all children should have the opportunity to be included in Prayer and Liturgy and support those children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Our aim is for Prayer and Liturgy to be an inclusive experience where all can contribute and benefit. Through prayer, reflection, forgiveness, reconciliation, celebration, and liturgy, we seek to promote the Catholic ethos of the school. Additionally, we aim to raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities, fostering respect and understanding.

Our Prayer and Liturgy sessions aim to:

- ✠ Contemplate the mystery of God.
- ✠ Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- ✠ Encourage the exploration of personal beliefs.
- ✠ Celebrate the rhythms of life and faith.
- ✠ Foster a sense of belonging and community.
- ✠ Nurture understanding and participation in liturgical practices.
- ✠ Reinforce the Catholic tradition through prayer and community celebration.

By creating an environment where prayer is encouraged and developed, we reflect the rich traditions of the Church and deepen understanding of the Catholic faith.

### **Worship and Liturgy Structure**

#### **1. Gathering and Prayer in Classrooms**

Each classroom maintains a prayer focal area that aligns with the liturgical season.

Students are encouraged to engage in both individual and communal prayer, incorporating traditional, reflective, and child-led forms.

#### **2. Weekly Worship and Liturgy Activities**

Prayer and Liturgy at St John's follows a weekly structure:

- **Monday:** Gospel Assembly led by SLT, focusing on the previous Sunday's readings.
- **Tuesday:** Hymn practice and prayer for the whole school.
- **Wednesday:** Class-based worship using Wednesday Word resources.
- **Thursday:** Whole school assembly, occasionally including Mass.
- **Friday:** Celebration Assembly.

#### **3. School Mass and other Liturgical Celebrations**

The celebration of Mass in school enables the children to experience the joyful occasion of the school community at worship. Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Prayer and Liturgy strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and

parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. Mass is celebrated regularly, in collaboration with the parish priest. Masses take place in the school hall or in the local church. Music and singing are an important part of our Masses.

- Seasonal celebrations include Advent, Lent, Harvest, Ash Wednesday, and the Stations of the Cross.
- Eucharist celebrations allow the school community to gather and give thanks, with Masses scheduled throughout the year.

#### **4. Inclusivity and Adaptation for Children**

Activities are adapted to allow full participation from children with different religious backgrounds, with adaptations made to support students with Special Educational Needs.

### **Resources and Environment**

- **Prayer and Reflection Areas:** Spaces are designated for prayer in classrooms and common areas, furnished with liturgical items like cloths, candles, and symbols to align with the church calendar.
- **Class Liturgy Boxes:** Each class has resources to create prayer focus areas, enabling children to take ownership of the sacred space.
- **Music and Hymns:** Hymns are selected from both traditional and contemporary sources, with meanings explained to foster deeper understanding.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

School leaders will evaluate worship provisions yearly to ensure alignment with the school's mission, adjusting as necessary based on student and staff feedback.

### **Link Policies**

- Religious Education
- Spiritual and Moral Development
- Progression in Prayer

### **Review and Further Developments**

Agreed by governors:

This policy will be reviewed within 3 years.