St James the Less RC Primary School

Prayer and Worship Policy
Updated Summer 20

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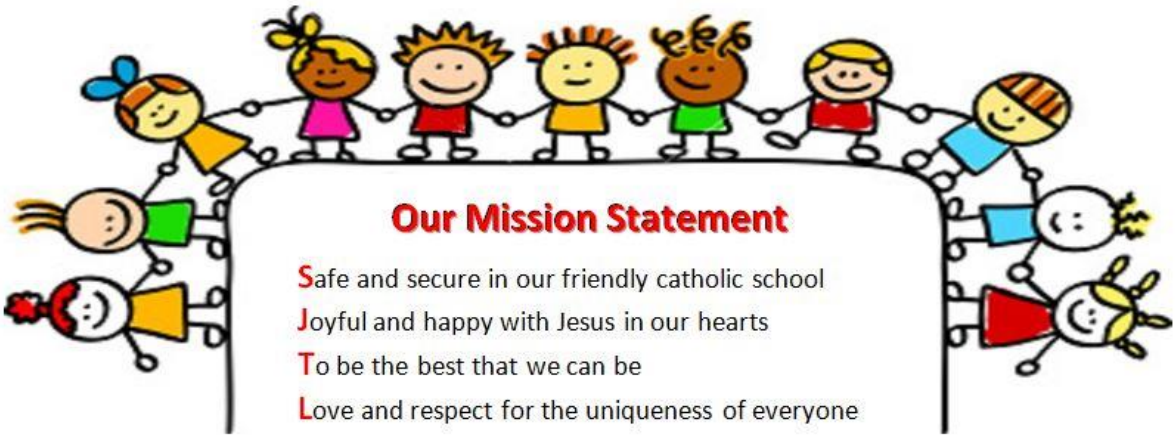

Aims

Although there are obvious links with curriculum R.E. there is a clear timetable for prayer and worship, which is distinct from classroom R.E.

Through prayer and worship we:

- offer a range of opportunities for both collective worship and individual prayer;
- enrich our religious experience and encourage a mature response;
- offer opportunities for pupil leadership of and participation in class or whole school experiences of prayer and worship;
- promote and celebrate the partnership between school, home and parish.

Objectives

Through prayer and worship we hope to develop:

- a sense of belonging to a community;
- a growing respect for places and objects associated with prayer and worship;
- an appreciation of the importance of prayer including the value of silence and reflection;
- a firm foundation for Liturgy;
- a desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping Gospel values at the heart of everything.

Through collective worship we praise, ask and thank. We recognise who we are and we focus on life as a whole school community.

Prayer expresses what this school values. The content of prayer and worship in our school is a combination of themes integrated with the R.E. curriculum, cross-curricular learning experiences and Sacramental celebrations.
It will take a variety of forms:

- collective and individual worship;
- pupil leadership and participation
- reflection and response;

in a variety of settings:

- the classroom;
- the hall;
- the Church;

and will involve different group settings:

- own class;
- whole school;
- KS groupings.

In addition to daily prayers, all the classes are involved in other celebrations in school and in church throughout the year.

These include:

- school and parish Masses on Holy Days;
- Sacramental celebrations in church;
- classes taking it in turn to prepare prayer services and lead Mass in school (This is the Parish Mass of the day);
- seasonal celebrations;
- Mass in church at the beginning and end of each term;
- Education Sunday and Youth Sunday Masses with students from All Saints' High School.
- Year 6 Leavers' Mass celebrated in the presbytery garden.

Prayer and Collective Worship is an inextricable part of our school life. The themes throughout the year focus on covering different aspects of the 5 Ws. Each class has a focal point for prayer (altar/special reflective area). Wall displays in the school hall are designed to reflect the 5 Ws.

Reviewed Summer 2019