Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Primary Academy



**Learn to Love, Love to Learn**

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by Staff and Governors – September 2023

Next Review – September 2025

**Aims**

Collective Worship at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School aims to up hold our Mission Statement, Learn to Love, Love to Learn.

At Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School, we are an inclusive, caring, learning community who endeavour to use the gifts and talents given to us by God to our full potential to help others and to understand the love of Jesus Christ. The life, example and teachings of Jesus underpin everything we do and who we are.

At Our Lady’s we strive to live, and encourage others to live the Gospel. We aim to achieve this through:

* The nurturing of our Catholic faith.
* Seeking to develop the faith of all members of our school community.
* Putting our faith into practice in the quality of care and support that we extend to others; creating an ethos that exemplifies the teaching of Jesus Christ and his mother Mary, so that others can come to know God’s love as we do.
* Celebrating our faith through Mass, liturgical prayer, personal prayer and taking part in the preparation for the Holy Sacraments.
* Welcoming the community to share all forms of prayer and worship with us making it a relevant and meaningful experience for all.
* The effective delivery of a challenging and knowledge rich curriculum that encourages our pupils to acquire the knowledge and skills that will enable them to grow spiritually, morally, physically and academically and to make a valuable contribution in society.
* A carefully planned, progressive and challenging Virtues curriculum that strengthens our pupils’ understanding of our Catholic Virtues and encourages them to live out the virtues in their every day actions.
* The encouragement of a positive partnership between home, school and parish, respecting all cultural and faith backgrounds and practices.
* Having high expectations for all, leading by example, encouraging pupils to develop self-respect, confidence, independence, personal aspirations and to set themselves high standards.
* The development of a strong sense of identity and belonging, through the consistent promotion of high standards of conduct and respect for all.
* Working together to help our pupils to feel happy, loved, respected, safe and valued as individuals in order for them to show our kindness, respect, tolerance, acceptance and to celebrate our differences as we work together as a community.
* Working collaboratively with all of the schools in Our Lady of Lourdes Trust and the Diocese of Nottingham to deliver the best Catholic education for all our pupils.

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, special educational needs, faith or religion or socio-economic background.

We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and celebrate diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We believe everyone has a contribution to make and will enrich our community.

At Our Lady’s, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here. We believe every individual is created in the image of Christ and as such should be respected, welcomed and valued in order to be able to Learn to Love, Love to Learn.

‘Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.’*(Religious Education and Collective Worship* 1/94)

**Liturgical Prayer**

The primary focus of a Liturgical Prayer is to create a powerful and prayerful experience where young people can encounter Jesus and engage with their faith.

Liturgical Prayer is accessible to all and will provide students with interesting and varied opportunities to experience both contemporary and traditional prayer.

**Whole School, Key Stage & Class Liturgical Prayer**

During a typical school week students will have daily Liturgical Prayer.

On Mondays, whole school Liturgical Prayer is led by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (also the RE coordinator) and is inspired by the Word of the Week, derived from the Catholic Ordo. Where possible, this is also linked to the Gospel from the previous Sunday. The liturgical prayer always ends with a whole school mission. Members of our chaplaincy team, the Faithful Friends, are often involved in setting the prayer focus, welcoming pupils and leading prayers.

On Tuesdays, our liturgical prayer takes the form of prayer through music and children learn new hymns as well as celebrating with familiar music. This is led by our music teacher Mr Walters. We are greatly inspired at Our Lady’s by St Augustine who taught us that *‘The one who sings, prays twice’.*

On Wednesdays, our Key Stage liturgical prayer is led by class teachers on a rota and are inspired by the Old Testament, the liturgical year such as feast days, school themes such as virtues needed to be peacemakers, or the Bishop’s themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship.

On Thursdays, our pupils lead the liturgical prayer in classrooms. Students work together, supported by an adult, to create and lead varied and interesting worship experiences. Let Us Pray resources are used to support our pupils in their planning and the trust planning and evaluation sheets ensure a consistent approach to the planning and delivery of liturgical prayer in each classroom.

On Fridays, we gather together to celebrate the many gifts and talents given to us by God. Missionary Medals are awarded to one pupil from each class who have excelled in living out our school mission that week. Class teachers celebrate the achievements of chosen children, offering their good work and deeds to God. Parents of children receiving awards are warmly invited and attend in good numbers.

Where liturgical prayer opportunities are being led, in locations around school other than the school hall, such as the peace garden, care will be taken to make the space suitable and reverent.

**Liturgies throughout the liturgical year**

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

**Planning, Delivery and Evaluation**

Liturgical prayer will be thoughtfully prepared following the Gather, Word, Response and Mission approach. Always rooted in scripture, the aim is for pupils to be able to use as many of their senses as possible to access the liturgy and deepen their understanding and personal faith.

An appropriate atmosphere, representative of the liturgical season, will be created through the use of music, lighting and a prayer focus area. Pupils will be dismissed in a prayerful and meaningful way, to carry the spirit of the mission into their day.

All new teaching staff and support staff are trained on how to plan and deliver collective worship using the Let Us Pray resources and the trust planning and evaluation documents.

Where possible, Acts of Worship will be evaluated, either informally through discussion and comment or using the trust evaluation sheet. These will be collated regularly in our collective worship evidence folder. The style and nature of our liturgical prayer will continually be open to the needs and views of our community, incorporating new ideas and experiences in response to evaluation, whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos.

**Mass**

Mass is celebrated as a whole school community at least once a term, aiming for once every half-term. These masses are celebrated at church, helping us to strengthen our link with our parish community. Our pupils lead every aspect of Mass including serving on the altar where possible. We share our love of singing at these Masses too.

On alternative Thursdays, each class will attend a parish Mass. For these Masses our parish members continue to lead.

Parents and family members are invited to all Masses, whole school and class, and dates are shared on Newsletters ahead of time.

Throughout the school year we lead three weekend Masses in our parish church. This gives our wider parish community the opportunity to together with us in celebration of Mass. Again, our pupils lead all aspects of these weekend Masses including the music.

**Prayer throughout the day**

Staff will ensure that a prayer is said at the start of every day, at the end of the last lesson before lunch and at the end of the last lesson of each day. A prayer progression document supports our teachers and ensures that as pupils progress through our school they are introduced to new prayers both modern and traditional.

Additional opportunities for reflection will be encouraged by staff and students. Staff and Governors’ meetings and staff briefings will also start with a time of prayer and all those present will be invited to share in whatever way they feel comfortable. Opportunities for personal prayer for children are planned for in each class in a creative way.