



St Ralph Sherwin

Today Rather Than Tomorrow

Mission Statement

“To be like Jesus.... wise, caring, honest and fair, today and every day.”

At St Anne’s Catholic Voluntary Academy, Buxton, we are committed to nurturing every child on their journey of faith, recognising each individual as unique, valued and precious in the eyes of God. We strive to provide a spiritually enriching environment where the Gospel Values of love, kindness and forgiveness are at the heart of all that we do.

Our pupils are encouraged to develop a strong sense of responsibility towards others, understanding both their role within the local community and their place as global citizens. Through learning, worship and daily interactions, children grow in confidence, compassion and respect for all.

Inspired by the example of Jesus, we seek to follow in His footsteps through our actions, words and thoughts. This is reflected in our commitment to charitable work and service, supporting those in need within our school community, the local area and the wider world.

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

In St. Anne’s CVA there is a range of prayer and liturgy including class prayer, assemblies, silent reflection, devotions, special services for times within the school year, celebration of mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many of these are personalised to the needs and requirements of the school

At St Anne’s Catholic Voluntary Academy, prayer, liturgy and reflection are central to the daily life of our school community. Through these shared experiences, we nurture the Christian values of friendship, compassion, forgiveness and respect, helping every child to grow spiritually and personally.

We believe that prayer and liturgy are at the heart of our Catholic identity, offering opportunities to give thanks and praise to God and to deepen our relationship with Him. Through the example of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we encourage our pupils to respond to God’s love through their words, actions and service to others.

As a Catholic school, we are inspired by the teachings of the Gospel and the traditions of our faith. At the same time, we recognise and respect the beliefs, backgrounds and experiences of all members of our community. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued and able to participate fully, regardless of their faith tradition or religious background.

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of liturgy and prayer for all pupils. Yet it is much more than a legal requirement- it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The headteacher is responsible for arranging daily prayer and celebration of the word after consulting with the governing body.

We understand that simply holding an assembly, which includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement.



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We also acknowledge that Celebration of the word, liturgy and prayer are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering but the difference between them will always be made clear. The Act of Worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Values and Aims.

At St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we strive to provide a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment where every individual is encouraged to explore, express and deepen their personal relationship with God within a faith-filled and worshipping community.

Our Catholic faith is at the heart of all that we do and underpins the broad, balanced and enriching curriculum we provide. We recognise and value the important partnership between staff, governors, parents, parish and the wider community in supporting the spiritual, physical, emotional and educational development of every child.

As a Gospel-inspired community, we seek to live out the teachings of Jesus through our daily actions, relationships and service to others. Collective worship plays a central role in school life, supporting and strengthening our mission and values. Through prayer, liturgy and reflection, we foster a caring ethos and promote the development of the whole child—spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually.

We treasure these moments of worship and reflection, providing children with opportunities to develop a thoughtful and reflective approach to life. Pupils are encouraged to express their beliefs, feelings and reflections in ways that are meaningful to them, helping them to grow in faith, understanding and respect for others.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Through our liturgy and prayer we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- 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 attitude



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To participate fully

To take time out to 'wonder at' to 'come to terms with' and 'give worth to.'

Principles

All acts of worship in this school will:

- give Glory and honour to God
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- 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:

- on a small scale and wherever possible, help to personalise the experience
- short and paced appropriately for the age of the children
- as simple as possible

Planning Celebration of the word will be:

Properly planned

Adequately resourced Recorded

Monitored Evaluated

Prayer and Celebration of the Word and Liturgy is seen as an essential part of Religious experience and is therefore an integral part of our school day.

We aim to actively involve children in ways which are suited to their age and stage of personal, social and religious development.

Prayer and liturgy may take a variety of forms:

- Whole School Masses
- Whole School class Saint themed Assemblies
- Class Liturgies / Masses
- Reconciliation Services
- An experience on residential visits
- In the school shrine for quiet prayer and reflection
- Older pupils teaching younger pupils how to plan a celebration of the word and teach simple prayers in line with the prayer progression document.

In all of our liturgies we try to make use of artefacts and visual aids which enhance the spiritual awareness of our children.



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Masses

The whole school celebrates Mass at the beginning of the year, Sacrament of Holy Communion and at the end of the Summer term.

All classes attend week day mass. Mass is also celebrated on Holy Days which occur within the school week, during term time.

In addition, Year Three children are involved in First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion celebrations school children attend sessions in the parish and within school. Parents are invited to participate in the celebrations.

Assemblies

A whole school assembly- Celebration of the Word is held at the beginning of each school week.

Key Stage Celebration assemblies take place weekly, including "Mission Maker" awards for children living out our mission statement.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

At Key Stage 2, a class reconciliation services take place during the seasons of Advent and Lent. The celebration includes readings, prayers and songs and the children are also given time for quiet reflection.

An opportunity is then given for the children to receive the sacrament individually.

The children at Key Stage 1, participate in less formal services.

Class Liturgies

Within the classroom setting, liturgies may take the form of celebrations for each topic or may focus on seasonal events.

Parents / guardians / governors are welcome to attend any of the liturgies and masses.

Daily prayers are said in each class, in the morning, before and after lunch and at home time. These will involve formal and informal prayers with time also given for private prayer and reflection.

Each classroom also has a focal point for prayer. There is a crucifix, and there may be a poster or a special book chosen by the teacher and the children. This display with the appropriate coloured cloth changes to suit the liturgical season. Each class has a holding cross which is kept on the class prayer focus.

It may be used privately by children or during class prayer times and liturgies.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, linking with the R.E. scheme, or significant dates.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.



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- To develop the children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Guest visitors and clergy members are also used to deliver assemblies on a variety of topics including supporting various kinds of charity work.

Recording Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- Through displays, collections of children's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

We also feel that each Religious Education lesson is an act of worship.

The celebration of the Eucharist, being central to the Catholic life of our school and collective worship, allows for masses and services to be celebrated throughout the year, to mark special events in the church's liturgical year and /or life of the school.

Resources

The subject lead oversees the provision of resources. All the children have access to a range of cloths and items with which to dress the focus table, in order for it to reflect the church's liturgical year and or special events in the church's calendar. Each class has its own liturgy box, which they use to plan class or key stage worship. The school has a wide variety of bibles (including class sets) which are age appropriate.

Voluntary Prayer

The chaplaincy team meet each week and help younger pupils to prepare a celebration of the word and teach them simple prayers.

They will also celebrate important events in the church's year e.g. meet once a week in October and May to lead the Rosary.

The Shrine is always available for quiet prayer and reflection during playtimes and lunchtimes.

Parish Community Parishioners are always encouraged to join us in celebrating the Eucharist, liturgies and to attend whole school worship throughout the year.

Pupil Leadership

All pupils participate in liturgy and prayer with clear identification of liturgy leaders.

Pupil engagement and creativity

A range of role play, quizzes, group discussion and art are regularly used within worship.



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Personal Impact

Pupils link liturgy and prayer to world events through their teaching in Oracy through Picture News (for example G7 and Climate Change) and liturgical themes.

Monitoring and Review of the policy

The coordination and planning of Prayer and Liturgy is the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- Supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in Prayer and Liturgy, and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject in the school.
- Evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in Prayer and Liturgy and indicates areas for further improvement.
- Evidence of the children's work, and to observe lessons of Prayer and Liturgy across the school. The quality of teaching and learning in Prayer and Liturgy is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher as part of the school's agreed cycle of monitoring and moderation. Subject leaders are further supported in their role through governor links.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The headteacher keeps a record of monitoring, to ensure worship meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Members of the LGB also monitor Acts of Prayer.

The policy is monitored by the RE subject lead, and is to be reviewed by the staff and governors every two years. It is due to be reviewed in October 2028.

This policy is based on the CMAT Trust Aims, Diocesan Expectations, Staff and Pupil Voice in conjunction with the Governing Body.

Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship in schools in England

(CES)

- (i) The right of withdrawal from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship Parents of pupils in VA schools and voluntary academies⁹ are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education¹⁰ and/or collective worship¹¹ given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that a parent's request is withdrawn

¹ School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.69(1).

² The term 'trust deed' is defined widely: see section 579(1) of the Education Act 1996.

³ Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, Schedule 19, paragraph.4; Instrument of Government, clause 2.

⁴ *The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement* (December 2020); *Academy articles of association: For use by Catholic academies* (February 2019).

⁵ School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.70(1).

⁶ School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2.

Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship – July 2024

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