



Prayer and Worship Policy

At St Veronica's, we recognise the face of Christ in every person, serving others with love, kindness and respect.

Our Mission Statement

Mission Statement

Secure in the love of Jesus, we
Try to do our best.
Valuing all God's family, we recognise that
Each one of us is special.
Respecting everything God has made, we use
Opportunities to explore and learn.
Never overlooking the needs of others, we
Include everyone, helped by our
Caring, friendly, Catholic community.
Always forgiving, we
Share and celebrate the life of Jesus.

Introduction

At St Veronica's RC Primary School, prayer and worship are central to our Catholic identity and integral to the daily life of our school. We believe that faith is a gift and as educators in a Catholic school, we are privileged to pass this gift on to the children entrusted to our care. Rooted in our mission, we strive to place Jesus at the centre of all we do, treating every moment as an opportunity to grow closer to Him. As a Catholic community, we live out the mission, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* We see ourselves not merely as a school, but as a loving and supportive family where every person is welcomed, valued, and nurtured in faith. Children, families, staff, governors and parish come together in unity; a praying, worshipping, and faith-filled community that seeks always to share and celebrate the life of Jesus' in all that we do.

The Nature of Prayer and Worship at St Veronica's

At St Veronica's, we understand prayer and worship to be our expression of love, gratitude, and praise for God. It is through prayer that we enter into relationship with Him, discover His presence in our lives, and respond to His invitation to walk in His light. Worship in our



school takes many forms and is always rooted in Sacred Scripture. These acts are not only spiritual encounters but valuable learning opportunities where all can contribute and from which all may grow. At St Veronica's, worship forms an essential part of our curriculum and spiritual formation, enabling children to encounter Christ and deepen their faith.

Legal Requirements

we recognise the legal responsibility that we have as Catholic School, to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. This can be held at any time during the school day and may take place as a whole school, in key stages, classes or smaller groups.

As a voluntary aided Catholic school, the governing body, in partnership with the headteacher, is responsible for ensuring that collective worship is appropriate to the Catholic character of the school.

Parents and carers retain the statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship; such requests must be made in writing to the headteacher.

The Place of Prayer and Collective Worship in School Life

At St Veronica's Prayer and collective worship are not merely statutory practices but intrinsic aspects of our Catholic identity. Worship permeates our daily routine and helps shape a school identity rooted in Gospel values. Worship provides a shared space for reflection, belonging and spiritual growth. It supports the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our children.

We affirm the inclusivity of worship by ensuring that it speaks meaningfully to:

- Members of our parish of St Marie's Church;
- Pupils for whom school is their only experience of worship;
- Children from other Christian denominations;
- Pupils and families of other faiths or no faith background.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Veronica's RC Primary School aims to:

- Provide opportunities to encounter and reflect on the mystery of God;
- To foster a deep sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the presence of Christ



- Encourage pupils to reflect on spiritual and moral issues in their lives;
- Enable growth in personal faith and spiritual resilience;
- Celebrate the fullness and beauty of life, joy and hope in Christ;
- Foster a sense of community, belonging and unity;
- Cultivate a culture built around shared Gospel values;
- Nurture liturgical formation and understanding;
- Reinforce familiar and traditional prayers of the Catholic Church;
- Provide moments of stillness and reflection in a busy school day;
- Encourage full, active and conscious participation;
- Enable pupils to explore, wonder, question and respond reverently.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is purposefully and prayerfully planned across the school community. It includes both adult-led and child-initiated acts of worship.

Collective worship is:

- planned around the Liturgical Year, feast days, Holy Days of Obligation, and events significant to our school community. The theme for each week follows the Sunday Gospel and is supported by resources provided by the Salford Diocese Resource Centre. Sacred Scripture is always the centre piece of worship, nurturing biblical literacy and reverence for the Word of God.
- Responsive to real-life events and responsive to the needs of the school, local community and global issues. We hold special worship gatherings in response to major world events, personal school milestones, or pastoral needs.
- From KS2, the role of pupil ministries becomes more progressive, enabling children to become leaders of collective worship, growing in confidence and faith.
- Our **GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Team**, led by Miss Walker, takes an active role in preparing and leading acts of worship. Members are supported through regular meetings and a weekly afterschool club.
- Integrated into the rhythm of school life, with classroom prayer corners promoting spontaneous and reflective prayer. These quiet places celebrate the creativity of our children. For example, our **Tree of Kindness**, located in our Forest School area, is adorned with pupils' prayers and uplifting messages. Linked to Psalm 24:1 – "The



earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" – this space echoes our commitment to Creation and stewardship.

The Format of Collective Worship

At St Veronica's RC Primary School, collective worship follows a consistent structure rooted in the four elements of liturgical celebration:

Gather – We begin by creating a peaceful and calm space for worship. We use our senses to set the tone for worship such as:

- Visual: use of cloth to fit with the liturgical calendar; candle to remind us of Christ's presence; use of different artefacts depending on sacred scripture.
- Auditory: use of calming music to introduce the worship and selecting relevant hymns based on the theme of Worship.
- Smell: incense to represent purification and worship
- Touch: Use of pebbles, stones and holding crosses etc to use during prayer.

Word – A relevant piece of Scripture is proclaimed from the Bible. We use the Gospel for the forth coming Sunday. Once the scripture is delivered we follow this with an explanation/ discussion or role play to ensure children develop a strong understanding of the message.

Respond – Based on the Word, we respond through a variety of expressions such as prayer, song, art, poetry or stillness.

Mission – Every act of worship concludes with a message or challenge to live out the learning. Pupils are encouraged to embody the Gospel in actions and attitudes throughout the day.

Timetable of Collective Worship

Monday	9:00-9:20	Whole-school Gospel Assembly (Focus: Previous Sunday's Gospel)
Tuesday	2:45-3:10	Hymns of Praise Children that are delivering Wednesday's worship session are taken to prepare and plan with a member of staff.
Wednesday	10:30-10:50	Class Worship (pupil-led or teacher-facilitated worship)
Thursday	8:50-9:10	'Stay and Pray' Our parents are invited to join their children for a celebration of the word.



Friday	2:45-3:15	Praise Assembly. During this assembly, we award mission badges for children that have demonstrated attributes from our school mission statement.
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The Significance of the Eucharist

The Eucharist stands at the heart of Catholic life and is central to our identity as a faith community. Children prepare for the Sacrament of the Eucharist through engagement with the parish community; celebrations take place at St Maries Church and are planned with guidance from the *Directory for Masses with Children*.

We believe that helping children to encounter Christ through the Eucharist should be a gradual and joyful journey, fostering within them a love for the Mass and a growing reverence for the Sacrament as their faith develops. Families who wish for their child to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation are invited by Father Broadley to contact him directly.

Recording of Collective Worship

Collective worship is routinely documented as a means of reflection and evaluation. This includes:

- Planning recorded on a **Celebration of the Word Planning Sheet**, detailing themes, leaders, pupil participation and resources used;
- Class **floor books**, which include planning, photographs, prayers, Scriptures and reflections from worship;
- Displays showing pupils' faith expressions around the school;
- Weekly **school newsletter** articles and updates for the wider school community;
- Posts and photos shared on **school social media** and our website to celebrate this integral part of our school life.



Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact, quality and development of collective worship are reviewed regularly by the Religious Education Subject Leader (Miss Bernadette Walker) Headteacher (Mrs Julie Cawtherley) and governors. Evaluations are based on:

- Observations of collective worship sessions;
- Feedback from staff, pupils and parents;
- Evidence from floor books and displays;
- Pupil voice

The outcomes inform future planning and continuing professional development to enhance the overall delivery of Collective Worship.

Community Involvement

Prayer unites us as one family in Christ, deepening our relationships with God and with one another. When children see their parents, teachers and parish community joining together in worship, they witness faith in action and come to understand that prayer is a vital and joyful part of daily life.

By inviting parents to attend our praise assemblies and school Masses, and to take part in our *Stay and Pray* sessions each term, we strengthen the bond between home, school and parish. These shared moments of prayer nurture a sense of belonging, reinforce our Catholic values, and help children grow in faith, love and understanding of God's presence in their lives.



Appendix A:

Pupil ministries: participation in acts of worship:

Year Group	Planning	Setting Up	Welcoming	Gathering	Responding	Mission
Reception	Adult lead Children will choose between two carefully selected cards based on the theme for each section of worship.	Place items previously selected by teacher on the focal point.	Take part in simple welcomes and greetings.	Join in songs, gestures, and familiar prayers with enthusiasm; blow out candles reverently.	Respond through simple prayers verbally.	Begin to recognise ways to be kind and helpful, showing Jesus' love in daily life.
Year 1	With adult support, contribute to planning by choosing between 2 options for each stage of worship (e.g., prayer, song, reflection).	With adult support choose some relevant artefacts for the focal point and help prepare the space.	Lead short welcomes or introductions with support.	Join in and begin to lead short prayers or responses.	Suggest and say their own short prayers; join in reflective activities.	Begin to talk about how they can show Jesus' love at home and in school.
Year 2	With adult support, contribute to class worship planning; 3 children per week help lead worship.	Prepare the prayer table, explaining symbols such as the liturgical cloth.	Take turns leading the welcome and explaining the focus of worship.	Join in with confidence and lead simple prayers or readings.	Take part in reflections and explain what the worship means to them.	Identify and share ways to live out the Gospel message in their class and school community.
Year 3	Begin to plan worship more independently, selecting music, reflection activity, and mission with support.	Design the worship layout (e.g., circle formation) and help organise resources.	Lead welcomes with confidence, introducing the theme or Scripture.	Lead short readings or songs with reverence.	Lead simple reflections and guide peers through quiet prayer or song.	Choose and explain a simple mission linked to the message of the worship.
Year 4	Plan worship with less adult support, showing understanding of Scripture and its message.	Choose and set up appropriate media (songs, images, artefacts); distribute resources.	Lead welcomes confidently and introduce the focus of worship.	Lead readings and prayers; involve peers in reflection.	Create and lead reflective or creative responses (e.g., drama, art, or poetry).	Identify actions or commitments linked to the Gospel message, encouraging others to take part.
Year 5	Plan and lead worship with limited adult support, selecting Scripture, music, and mission. Two pupils lead each session.	Prepare and arrange the worship space independently.	Lead welcomes confidently and explain the focus and Gospel link.	Lead all aspects of worship including prayer, readings, and reflection questions.	Encourage peers to think deeply about the message and lead reflective prayer.	Select and explain an appropriate mission, inspiring peers to act on the Gospel message.
Year 6	Plan and lead worship independently with minimal adult guidance, selecting Scripture, prayers, and themes with purpose.	Organise all resources and guide younger pupils in preparation.	Confidently lead the introduction, explaining the Gospel and its relevance.	Lead the full act of worship including Scripture proclamation and reflection.	Write and lead their own prayers; facilitate meaningful reflection and discussion.	Encourage and model putting faith into action through service, leadership, and example in the wider school community.

**Appendix B:**

From Foundation to Faith: A class by class Guide to Growing in Prayer:

Year Group	Prayers
Reception	The Sign of the Cross, Grace before meals, Grace after meals, School prayer
Year 1	The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Class prayer
Year 2	The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Class prayer
Year 3	An Act of Contrition, The Angel of God, Class prayer
Year 4	The Apostles' Creed, The Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester, Come Holy Spirit, Class prayer
Year 5	Morning Offering, The Rosary, Act of Faith, Eternal Rest, Class prayer, The Magnificat, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Benedictus, Class prayer

This policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with children, staff and the governing body. It will be monitored and updated to develop and enhance the delivery of Prayer and Worship at St Veronica's.

Member of staff responsible: Bernadette Walker

This policy is to be reviewed in January 2027