

# St. Richard's Catholic Primary



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

“To use our gifts from God to help others and to bring joy and peace to our world. We will do this by using our Gospel Values of Love, Honesty, Hope, Kindness, Forgiveness and Respect.”

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our School Mission is to use our gifts from God to help others and to bring joy and peace to our world. We will do this by using our Gospel Values: Love, Honesty, Hope, Kindness, Forgiveness and Respect.

## RATIONALE

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Reflect on our Gospel Values (Love, Honesty, Hope, Kindness, Forgiveness and Respect)
- Worship God
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values, to experience a sense of belonging
- Consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Reflect upon the worship they have participated in
- To explore their own individual beliefs
- To respond and celebrate life
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To enrich religious experiences

## PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

All Acts of Worship at St. Richard's will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Give pupils a positive liturgical experience, appropriate to their age, in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church
- Be a fundamental part of the school and its Catholic Ethos
- Develop pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship instead of just participating

## CHURCH TEACHING

'Catholics believe that religious education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire educational process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life. It should provide the context for, and substantially shape the school curriculum, and offer living experience of the life of faith in its practical expression'.

## STATEMENT OF THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The religious aspect of school life has been re-emphasised by recent education reforms and is seen as an important part of the spiritual development of young people. At St. Richard's School, all those parents seeking entry for their children are expected to agree to them taking part in assemblies which follow the usual Christian tradition. The Education Act requires ALL schools to hold an Act of Worship (of an essentially Christian nature) every day.

### **STATUTORY DUTY OF SCHOOL**

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governance Committee. Daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the ages and abilities of the pupils. Collective worship at St. Richard's Catholic Primary School will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. The Trustees of the school are the Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark. In addition to daily collective worship, opportunities for collective worship exist at St. Richard's through:

- Daily Reflection
- Holy Days of Obligation Masses
- Feast Day Masses

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

- (i) All pupils/students have an entitlement to take part in an act of collective worship every school day which must be provided by the school.
- (ii) The majority of acts of collective worship over any given term should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. This means that collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief' without being distinctive of any one Christian denomination. In foundation or voluntary aided schools with a religious foundation, worship should be in line with the school's trust deeds/articles of government (see next section).
- (iii) Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the whole or part of collective worship and teachers have the right not to attend acts of collective worship. Pupils should not be withdrawn from collective worship in order to take part in other school activities. The Academy Principal and the Governing Body are responsible for ensuring compliance and for the health and safety of any withdrawn children on site.
- (iv) Collective worship can take place in separate school groupings and at any time during the school day. The separate school groupings need to be usual school groupings, for example, a class or a key stage or a year group.
- (v) Collective worship should take place on school or church premises

- (vi) Collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils who attend and take part in it.
- (vii) A distinction is made between an act of collective worship and an assembly.
- (viii) Collective worship is part of the inspection process in Voluntary Aided schools under the *section 48* inspection requirements in relation to compliance with pupils' / students' legal entitlement and the contribution it makes to school ethos and values and to pupils' / students' personal development (including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development).
- (x) Collective worship, as with all curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities, should contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Collective worship should be planned and delivered to objectives that contribute to a balanced and broadly-based curriculum, although it is not "counted" as curriculum time.

#### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS - Voluntary Aided or Foundation School with a Religious Foundation**

- (i) Worship in Catholic schools is the primarily responsibility of the Governance Committee, rather than the Academy Principal, although the Academy Principal will implement the Governing Body's policy.
- (ii) The Governance Committee have a particular responsibility to uphold the Catholic foundation of the school, which applies, especially to worship in the school.
- (iii) Daily Collective Worship must be provided for all registered school pupils on a daily basis. It also means that it is illegal to withdraw any pupils from Collective Worship on any other grounds.
- (iv) Parents in Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools may request withdrawal from all or part of Collective Worship. This right must be explained in the School's Prospectus. An entry such as the following may be deemed appropriate:  
'Daily Collective Worship is provided for all registered pupils at this school. This is seen as an important part of the school day, particularly as we are a Church school. However, parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If you wish to exercise this right, please discuss it with the Academy Principal.'
- (v) Teachers at St. Richard's are expected to support the Catholic ethos of the school, which includes attendance at acts of collective worship.
- (vi) It is expected that all teachers will attend daily Collective Worship with their pupils. This is one way for the school to show that worship is central to its life and is important for everyone, not just children. It also makes sense educationally for teachers to know what their pupils are experiencing in Collective Worship.
- (vii) Collective Worship in Church schools may take place in a church building (not just on school premises).

## **DAILY ACTS OF WORSHIP AT ST. RICHARD'S**

The school bases its Daily Act of Worship on a theme for the week and this is explored in every year group through our daily reflection sessions. Both the teachers and pupils are responsible for organising the 'act of worship' during reflection times. In order to help the teachers and pupils with their reflection sessions, the RE lead sets weekly themes, as well as suggested resources and scripture.

Class assemblies also take place throughout the year, focusing on the pupils learning, as well as our Gospel values.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

Monday – Collective Worship - Gospel

Tuesday – Collective Worship/Daily Reflection

Wednesday – Collective Worship/Daily Reflection

Thursday – Collective Worship - Class

Friday – Collective Worship - Catholic Social Teaching and Gospel Values

### **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

On Holy days of Obligation, Mass is organised for all students under the direction of the RE lead. All students are expected to attend with their Class teachers, who will be responsible for the conduct and organisation of their class. The pupils from different classes will lead.

### **MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEW**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.