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Headteacher: Mrs C. Kippax

Prayer and Worship Policy

Amended by: Jessica Collinge

Date for review: January 2022

Signed: *J. Jordan*

Chair of Governors

Date: January 2020



Mission Statement

St Oswald's is proud to be a Roman Catholic school where every person is helped to do their best to succeed in a place of love, peace and safety, following the teachings of Jesus. In our school family, we are enthusiastic learners and teachers.

'Nihil Satis Nisi Optimum - Only the best will do'

Aims

In order that we might have life in all its fullness, our school will:

Welcome - Be warm and welcoming towards all visitors to our school, just as Jesus welcomes us to the family of God.

Welfare - Be ready to forgive as Jesus taught us. To always say sorry with honesty, courage and meaning. Show love and kindness by trying to think of the needs of others before our own. Thank God for our talents and celebrate achievements earned through working hard, aiming high, and always believing we can reach our goals. To make God's world a better place.

Word - Follow the teachings of Jesus by loving, respecting and accepting one another. Give children as well as adults the chance to have a voice in the future development of our school. To place the Word of God at the centre of all that we do.

Worship - To say our prayers meaningfully and worship the Lord our God joyfully with all our hearts.

Witness - Find love and kindness here and when we leave take lasting friendships and happy memories with us. To be witnesses of a Loving God who is at the heart of all we do.

Philosophy

We believe that worship in our school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims of Prayer and Worship

- To communicate to children the nearness and presence of God.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- To reinforce the importance of prayer which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To deepen the spiritual and moral experience of each child and enable teachers and children to grow spiritually together.
- To integrate pupils' experience of prayer and worship with their learning across the whole curriculum.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To take time out to wonder, understand and appreciate God.

Objectives

- To provide a range and depth of spiritual experiences which are vibrant, rich and varied. (Worship and Word)
- To provide opportunities for collective worship, both liturgical and non-liturgical and individual prayer and reflection. (Worship)
- To give children the opportunity to be involved in the formation and planning of prayerful experiences. (Witness)

- To use the experiences and needs of the children, picking out the correct moment and time to deliver quality prayerful occasions. (Worship/ Witness)
- To recognise the special place and time for traditional prayers and to share these with our pupils. (Worship, Witness, Word)
- To develop and deepen the prayer life of teachers themselves and to give structure and support. (Witness)
- To provide both children and staff a living, worshipping community, thereby helping them to enter into the full life of the church. (Worship)

Planning and Organisation

- At St Oswald's we use the Ten:Ten resources to scaffold worship across the school. This scheme provides many opportunities to develop prayer and worship with the children; ensuring scripture is at the heart of all acts of worship.
- Pupils take part in daily worship as a whole school, as a Key Stage and in their individual classes.
- Daily worship is led by both staff and children.
- Throughout the school children are given the opportunity to develop the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship at an age appropriate level.
- Members of the Faith Council support others in the planning, preparation and delivery of acts of worship.
- Teachers meet weekly to plan worship across the school.
- With the support of Faith Council, all classes are asked to develop a prayer area that can be used as a source for the inspiration of prayer.
- Children and staff pray together using both traditional and inspired prayers. These times occur at the beginning of the school day; before and after lunch and at the end of the day.
- At frequent times, children, parents and the parish community join together to share in a mass, liturgy or reflection together. Children are actively involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of these prayerful opportunities.

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

Reviewed January 2020