



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Today Rather Than Tomorrow

Mission Statement

'Our school is a little bit of heaven on earth. It is a Christ centred community where we are the people and Jesus is the love, the care and the courage.' (Pupils)

St. Mary's offers a unique opportunity to ensure every child is nurtured in their journey of faith, recognising that they are all important and precious and spiritually fulfilled. They are celebrated within an environment which has the Gospel Values of forgiveness, love and kindness embedded into everything that we do. Pupils develop an understanding of communal obligations and personal aspirations to develop their role as global citizens.

We try to follow in Jesus' footsteps through our actions, thoughts and words especially in our charitable efforts in helping those in need within our community and the wider world.

'When we help others, our trust becomes stronger.' (Pupils)

All children have the opportunity to fulfil their God given talents, to be the best they can be. Every child is a dream found in God's heart. They all have a sacred purpose and that is to do something wonderful with their lives. Everyone is unique, we are all equal and we respect each other working in harmony.

'We look after God's world because he made it for us. When I look at the sky I look at God.' (Pupils)

There is no better way of carrying out this intention than by welcoming visitors into our school within the ethos and philosophy expressed in the above Mission Statement.





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Collective Worship Policy

Within our Catholic community, where prayer, liturgy and reflection are an important part of our daily life, the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness are shared with all.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholic Christians, we are guided by the values of the Gospel and the beliefs of our own faith tradition, whilst at the same time, respectful of the beliefs of others.

Therefore, it considers the religious and educational needs of all, who share in it, whatever their denomination or religious standing.

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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 collective worship 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.

We also acknowledge that assembly and collective worship are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

Values and Aims.

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.

Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in our worship.

We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.



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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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Through our collective worship 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
- 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



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Planning Collective worship will be:

Properly planned

Adequately resourced

Recorded

Monitored

Evaluated

Timetable Day

Monday Whole school worship in the hall led by the headteacher

Tuesday Come and sing our praises in the hall led by the headteacher

Wednesday KS1 and KS2 liturgies-child led

Thursday Class liturgy or attendance at parish mass on a rota

Friday Star of the Week assembly-teacher led. This is planned in line with The Ordo

In addition, each class says a morning prayer, lunchtime prayer (before and after lunch) and prayers at the end of the day.

We also feel that each **Come** and **See** 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. Each class also has a range of books which are concerned with religious subjects such as prayer, the mass and people of faith.
- We have a forest school area, where collective worship regularly takes place, especially in key stage 1 in order to better appreciate the wonder of creation.



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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 Worship.

The chaplaincy team will also monitor liturgies occasionally. Our new Lay Chaplain also organises with the pupils' class retreats and supports pupils and teachers in the delivery of collective worship. The children themselves evaluate the liturgies and the responses are shared with the children and kept in a file.

Voluntary Worship

The chaplaincy team meet each week and share bible stories with other children and reflect on their content.

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 Rainbow Room, opened by Bishop Malcolm, 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.

Monitoring and Review of the policy

The policy is monitored by the RE subject lead, who is also the headteacher and is to be reviewed by the staff and governors every two years. It is due to be reviewed in October 2023.



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