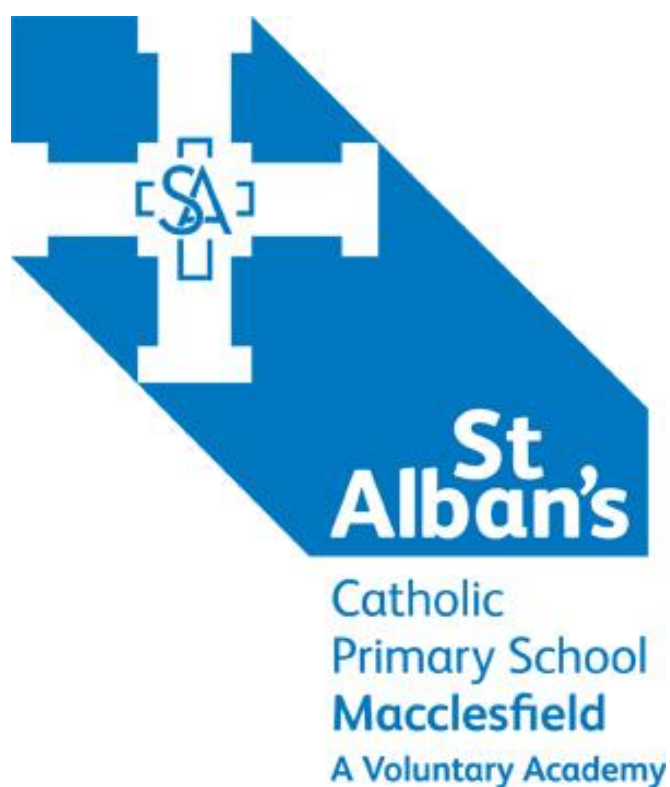


ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, A Voluntary Academy



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

2021

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Our Mission Statement

Love, learn, share and respect in the light of Jesus

Our Aims:

- We will create a caring Catholic community in which all members can grow in love, trust and respect for one another.
- We will ensure that each member of our Catholic school community feels special as a child of God.
- We will celebrate our differences and similarities.
- We will help each other to develop our particular talents.
- We will communicate clearly and honestly with each other.
- We will create a sense of belonging between our school, our Church and our families.

GOD SPEAKS GENTLY...

'God speaks very gently to children, often without words, the natural creation provides the vocabulary – leaves, clouds, flowing water, a shaft of light. It is the secret language, not to be found in books. One sees a child pause suddenly in the midst of some activity, brought to a silent contemplation of some natural object or living creation or picture. Here is the quality of looking

and listening, which brings him close to God, invoking in one act both the concreteness, and the mystery of the world of things. The task of the religious teacher is to go beyond the admiration of the poet and the question of the philosopher as to the 'how' of things, and allow the child to find the bond linking him with the 'who' – God, the Creator.'

Cardinal Basil Hulme

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic 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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.)

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.

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.

It will be an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- 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 attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to 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 and age appropriate liturgical experiences

At St Alban's, Prayer and Liturgy takes place as a whole school, in key stages, and classes.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Way, The Truth and the Life, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in skills in pupils that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place to ascertain whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Children are encouraged to share their thoughts and responses to Prayer and Liturgy.

Pupil responses are taken into account as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Resources

Prayer and Liturgy Boxes set up for each class. We also have a central bank of resources and each class has a Prayer and Liturgy box, containing a variety of resources.

Eucharist

We have whole school Masses to highlight special occasions in the Liturgical year. During the season of Advent and Lent we hold special services in each class offering our older children the opportunity of reconciliation and our younger children the opportunity to reflect at these special times. The same general principles applies to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate and lead will be maximised.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

Appendix 1

Statement on Collective Worship

It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned

- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

in order to ensure that the collective worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.