

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST  
SAINT HUGH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

**Mr G Hughes – Headteacher**

**PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY**

**Mission Statement**



**1 Introduction**

1.1 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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'  
(Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

Jesus remains central to every aspect of school life. We aim to be a living, loving and sacramental community which is inspired by the life of Christ and the teachings of the Church, rooted in Gospel values. We hope that from the minute you enter our school you clearly see and feel that we are a Catholic community.

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## **2 Legal Requirements**

2.1 It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

2.2 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. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

2.3 Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'Collective Worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

## **3 The place of prayer and liturgy at St Hugh's**

3.1 Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

## **4 The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

4.1 Prayer and liturgy at St Hugh's aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development

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- To pray using 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.'



### **5 Principles**

All acts of prayer in St Hugh's will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

### **6 Implementation**

6.1 Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

#### **6.2 Masses and Collective Worship (prayer and liturgy)**

- Classes attend on a rota basis Mass at St Hugh's Parish Church with Canon Edward Jarosz
  - Mass in school or in Church on Holy Days of Obligation and a Mass on or nearest date.
  - Class Mass for Y3 is celebrated in the classroom in the Spring Term as Part of the children's Holy Communion preparation.
  - Mass of celebration is held in thanksgiving for Y6 as they prepare to leave the school at the end of the summer term
  - New school year mass is celebrated at the beginning of each academic year, welcoming new pupils and parents
  - Staff and pupils are invited and encouraged to attend Education Sunday Mass each September
  - Whole collective worships are also held each week; led by the prayer leaders and support by RE Lead.
  - EYFS to Y6 hold class based acts of worship responding to each RE topic, following Lets pray2gether resources.
    - Regular opportunities for collective worship on Thursdays is rotated between all Keystages throughout the academic year in order to celebrate Reconciliation, including Advent and Lent
    - All pupils take part in Eucharistic Adoration on a rota basis.

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### 6.3 Prayer opportunities

- The school has a designated chapel this sacred space allows children to access some time with God at any point during the day.
- KS1 / KS2 Prayer club allows children to explore meditative Lectio/Viso divina
- Class-based prayers are said in the morning, before meals and at the end of the day.
- Children and staff are invited to say spontaneous prayers during Celebration of the Word in classes or whole school worship.
- Each class has a spontaneous prayer box which children can take – (Containing an olive wood cross, LED candle, Bible story books and writing materials) to record their prayers
- Prayer wall- Children can write their prayers and share them in the central prayer area of the school – this is located next to the school chapel.
- Open prayer opportunities – Mrs Pallister the RE Lead provides prayer opportunities based on the virtue to live by focus or the season. These can be written or craft prayer opportunities.
- Staff have prayer time at the beginning of each staff meeting and dedicated reflection time during INSET and training times.
- Classes also use the TEN:TEN Collective worship daily resources in the morning in their classrooms.



### 7 Resourcing

7.1 Prayer and liturgy are central to St Hugh's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy.

7.2 The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy are maintained and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season.

7.3 Each class has a class set of prayer and liturgy resources, including a Children's Bible, set of liturgical cloths, prayer hand crosses, rosaries, a crucifix and LED Mission candle. Each KS2 class has a copies of the Good News bible Year 6 classes have copies of YOUCAT Catechism and YOUCAT Kids.

### 8 Training and formation

8.1 All new staff are supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school.

8.2 The RE lead is updated at half termly RE leader meetings with Diocesan advisor David Quinn.

8.3 There is also regular opportunity for whole-staff professional development, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

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8.4 Training and resources at St Hugh's are guided by direction from the Director of chaplaincy for the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust Tom Baptist, who is supported by the Lead lay chaplain Hannah Leech.

### **9 Monitoring and review of Prayer and Liturgy**

9.1. Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy takes place regularly and involves all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Observations of both Class and Whole school Celebration of the word is regularly undertaken by the Head Teacher, who is an CSI Inspector for the Nottingham Diocese.

