



## Liturgy and Worship Policy

Approved by the Board of Directors: March 2024

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### *School Mission Statement*

*"To create and sustain, with God's help, a learning, caring and serving community where all people are valued for who they are and who they may become in the light of Jesus Christ."*

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Worship is one of the distinctive features of St Bede's as a Christian Community. Worship is our response to God's love for us and is a natural expression of our relationship with our Father, through Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

- Worship should ordinarily take place every day and allow for spiritual development
- Sacramental worship and opportunities to mark special occasions with liturgy should be regularly offered
- Worship should be inclusive and invitational, and, as far as our imperfect communication will allow, should unite our two faith traditions
- Worship should respect the differences that exist between Roman Catholics and Anglicans and should provide as fully as possible for the distinctive needs of both traditions

## Responsibility

### **A) Governance**

The Directors, as guardians of the school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Worship and liturgy are central to the life of the school
- There is a named person (the Chaplain) who is responsible for worship and liturgy in the school
- The worship and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- There is a budget for worship and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of the school

### **B) Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as an Inter-Church community, ensures that:

- Worship and liturgy are central to the life of the school
- They work in partnership with the Chaplain

- Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- There are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school
- The daily act of collective worship is seen as the focal point of the school day and teaching staff are welcome to attend. It is expected that collective worship will be given priority in the construction of the timetable in order to ensure that this is made possible

### **C) Chaplain**

The Chaplain ensures that:

- Worship and liturgy are central to the life of the school
- There is an Annual Plan of Provision for worship and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebration, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- There is daily planned prayer for all students, appropriate to age and ability
- A rota of assembly provision is provided for each half-term, including senior staff and visitors as worship leaders
- Students are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation and delivery of worship and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation.
- Resources to support the planning of worship and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- Induction on worship and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- Monitoring of worship and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- Monitoring of worship and liturgy is reported to the Headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Inter-Church life of the school
- There is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- Liason with the education department of the Diocese of Ely and the Diocese of East Anglia is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

### **Overview of Worship and Liturgy Provision**

- The Chaplain will be the Worship and Liturgy Co-ordinator, responsible for providing daily collective worship, regular sacramental worship, liturgical provision for significant times in the life of the school, eg St Bede's Day
- This worship should challenge and enrich the lives of both students and staff
- The form and content of the worship must take account of the age and backgrounds of the students

- The use of any materials in liturgy and worship must be consistent with Gospel values and the aims of the school
- A variety of opportunities for students to be involved and to respond should be provided
- Each tutor group should elect 2 students to serve as Chaplaincy Reps for the year. These students will have responsibility for leading or organising weekly Tutor Group Worship and for taking leadership roles in Mass, Eucharist and Liturgies.
- Chaplaincy Reps will be commissioned for the service at the Christmas Carol Service and Liturgy and will be trained and supported in their role through regular meetings with the Chaplain

### **A) Collective Worship**

- Weekly worship themes will be provided by the Chaplain for each half-term
- The organisation of collective worship should enable it to take place in a variety of groupings (form, year, house, whole school) in order to establish different levels of corporate identity
- Collective worship will take place both in **assemblies** and in **Tutor Group Worship**
- Assemblies will be attended by whole year groups or Houses, presented by senior members of staff, the Chaplaincy team and selected visitors
- Assemblies will usually involve a combination of in-person presentation and Teams presentations each week.
- **Tutor Group Worship** will be presented by students in the classroom, using a booklet of materials provided by the Chaplain each half-term.
- All teaching staff should contribute to collective worship as appropriate. There will be an opportunity for all teachers and guests invited by the Chaplaincy to assist in leading collective worship.
- Collective worship should include a variety of 'elements' which may include:

affirmation	art	awe/wonder	caring
celebration	created things	dance/movement	drama
communion/fellowship	giving	liturgy	music
mystery	praise	prayer	readings
reconciliation/forgiveness	reverence	reflection	ritual
symbols	silence	teaching	thanksgiving

- The basic framework for collective worship will relate to the church year and provide opportunities for students to respond to and reflect on what is happening in the life of the school community and the world at large
- The school programme of collective worship should also emphasise links with the world-wide church
- Parents have the right, if they make request, to withdraw their child from the act of collective worship, following discussion with the Chaplain or Head Teacher

## **B) Sacramental Worship**

- As an Inter-Church School, committed to promoting understanding between denominations, all students will attend both Roman Catholic and Anglican worship at least once a year.
- Each year group will be offered one Roman Catholic Mass and one Anglican Eucharist each year, usually linked to the liturgical calendar, at which attendance is mandatory
- In addition, one further Roman Catholic Mass and one further Anglican Eucharist will usually be offered each half-term at which attendance is voluntary and usually open to all members of the school community.
- Eucharistic worship will be offered either in the Chaplaincy or in the Pilgrim Theatre.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be made available at least once a year.
- Other occasions for celebrating the Sacraments will be made available from time to time, such as on St Bede's Day or the provision of a Syro-Malabar Mass

## **C) Other Liturgical Provision**

- Non-Eucharistic liturgies, equally accessible to all students whatever their denomination, will be provided at significant times in the life of the school, eg. Christmas Carol Service, the end of each term.
- These liturgies will be provided by the Chaplain, but will be prepared and offered largely by students

## **Resourcing**

- The school will acknowledge the importance of collective worship by providing an annually renewable budget for its servicing and development
- The school will endeavour to ensure that any place used for worship is well prepared. When collective worship takes place thought will be given to the provision of focal points of worship
- Resources will be made available by the Chaplaincy and Theology Faculty to support formal acts of collective worship
- The Inter-Church character of the school will be reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the school buildings. Each Tutor Group classroom will contain a 'Sacred Space' noticeboard which will always display a cross, the School Prayer, the School Mission Statement and another well-known prayer. In addition, other items to promote or reflect prayer and worship may be added by the Tutor Group.
- We will endeavour to provide INSET each year for staff on leading and/or contributing to collective worship so that all staff understand the importance of worship and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.
- The school will provide a Chaplaincy as a place for worship, prayer, pastoral support, meetings, clubs and quiet reflection.

## **Conclusion**

Our ideal would be that our worship should inspire Christians to practice Jesus' summary of the Law - to love God and to love our neighbour. Our worship should enable students to move towards an understanding of this and its relevance to their lives.