

WORSHIP POLICY

ST. ANNE LINE
CATHOLIC
JUNIOR SCHOOL



March 2014

WORSHIP POLICY

At Saint Anne Line Catholic Junior School there is a vibrant worship life with ample opportunities for children's liturgies and times of prayer and reflection.

The worshipping nature of our school

The worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways. These are:

- Assemblies
- Masses
- Lenten & Advent Reconciliation Services

Purposes

These include:

- Worshipping together
- Reflecting on the Ethos of the School
- Being informed of administrative arrangements
- Reflecting upon various aspects of school life/sharing learning experiences
- Listening to stories e.g. Book Week
- Celebrating individual or group achievements
- Engaging and involving pupils in the process of drawing up the Mission Statement
- Listening to a visiting speaker

There must be **clarity** of purpose otherwise we may end up with a merging of intentions and deprive the children of a daily opportunity of meeting the **Living God**

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement for St Anne Line Catholic Junior School was compiled by staff. It was last received on a whole staff training day, where staff created updated visions in groups. Pupils also involved themselves culminating in a fresh revised mission statement. It is displayed in prominent places in the school eg. the outer entrance hall.

Assemblies

Class assemblies are held on Tuesday/ Wednesday mornings at 8.55am until 9.20am throughout the year.

The format for our assemblies is as follows:

Mondays – a whole school assembly led by one of the Partner Heads. They take place at 8.55 am until 9.15 am in the school hall. These assemblies follow the main assembly theme for that week.

Tuesdays – upper school assembly led each week by a different lower school teacher. These follow the allocated theme of the week.

Wednesdays – upper school assembly led by a lower school teacher. These follow the allocated theme of the week. These follow the allocated theme of the week.

Thursdays –hymn practice

Fridays – whole school celebration assemblies, which praise effort and achievement in a chosen curriculum, subject.

House assemblies led by Yr 5 & 6 pupil eg. Nelson Mandela

Class Worship – Prayers and reflection occur in every class on a daily basis. The times for this are generally 8.50 am for Morning Prayer and 3.00 pm for afternoon prayer. Additional times occur within the RE lessons and at moments during the day at the class teachers' discretion.

Monitoring

The Partner Heads monitor the class based worship.

Masses

Whole school Masses take place on holy days of obligation. They are celebrated at Holy Trinity Church at 9.30am with the parent and parish community.

Year group Masses are held approximately twice during the year at 9.30 in school or the church. Each year group prepares two weekday Masses per year (ie 8 in total). These are held on Thursdays.

Chaplaincy provision is by the Basildon Team Ministry. In addition a Youth Chaplin representative works in the school to help focus on the spirituality of the community.

Sacramental Preparation

First Holy Communion preparation occurs at Holy Trinity parish, St Basil's, and St Therese in Langdon Hills. Catechists are parishioners – some catechists are teachers in our school. Groups from the school are worked with on readings etc. by Sr. Clare both on Saturdays and schooldays.

Reconciliation Services

Reconciliation services regularly take place during Advent and Lent. Ash Wednesday masses take place.

Prayer

Formal prayer is said each morning and afternoon in every class

Morning Prayer

**Father in heaven you love me
You are with me night and day
I want to love you always
In all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father
Bless me through the day.**

Afternoon Prayer

**God Our Father I come to say
Thank you for your love today
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light.**

Other formal prayers such as the Our Father, the Hails Mary and the Glory be are sometimes said in class worship and in hall assemblies.

Liturgical Prayer

Children are currently learning the revised liturgy prayers.

Reflective Prayer

This is a regular feature of assemblies, RE lessons and times of worship in the classroom.

Meditation

Meditation is a popular form of prayer in the school helped by the Monica Brown “Word of God” cards and ‘reflective’ CDs stored on the RE shelves/in peoples own rooms. This happens at least twice a week, normally at 1.20pm.

Prayer Focus

Every classroom has a prayer focus with relevant **Come and See** vocabulary, symbols and children’s work displayed. The hall displays the Stations of the Cross and has a beautiful picture of the St Anne Line Way on the wall as a focus.

Hymn Practice

There is a regular hymn practice held on Thursday from 8.55 to 9.20 am. It is led by the RE and Music Co-ordinator with assistance from at least two other teachers/TAs. A wide variety of hymns relevant to the **Come and See** topic, forthcoming Masses, RE themes, assemblies, feast days etc is covered.

The use of the piano and CDs with the overhead projector enable the children to access all hymns. Both reflective and livelier hymns form a balance to their experiences. Sister Claire Kane often comments on the beautiful quality of our singing.

Liaisons with parish liturgists

The Head meets termly with the school Liaison Representative of the Parish Council and Special Liturgical events are communicated to her. School CDs and acetates are lent to the church.

Leavers' Mass

The Leavers' Mass is a popular year group Mass held in the church for parents and relatives of year 6 to attend.

A special Leavers' Assembly also takes place assisted by the Chaplain.

Retreats/away days

Staff

A staff retreat day is held from time to time where staff are led by the school chaplain in prayer, reflection, team building exercises and discussions. This binds the staff – leading to greater unity.

Governors

The RE Governor who monitors both the RE and worshipping aspects of the school. The Governor reports formally to the Body annually. Biannually, Governors monitor through visits, observation and interview, the aims and Mission of the school.

RE Inset

The RE Co-ordinator, Partner Heads, Assistant Head and NQTs attend Brentwood inset courses including the Annual RE Co-ordinators' Meeting and the Diocesan Headteachers Conference.

Resources

Attached is a list.

Displays

In every classroom there is an attractive, eye-catching display which is relevant to the **Come & See** topic being covered. Vocabulary, children's work and prayers are features of RE displays. There is always an RE display in the entrance hall.

From time to time there are displays of scriptural stories linked to themes in **Come & See** or festivals of the year in the school entrance hall.

Creative ways of enhancing Scripture Readings

Drama and dance are used frequently to enhance scripture.

Artefacts

Artefacts are used as a focus to enhance displays. Resources are stored in the staff room and the altar for liturgies. The world faiths artefacts are stored in the world faiths big tray unit in the corridor outside year 5 classes.

Sunday preparation

Large numbers of pupils serve and sing at the parish Masses.

Saint Anne Line Catholic Junior School is a level one Rights' Respecting school. At the heart of our school is the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC). This is evident in our planning, policies, practice and ethos.

- **Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management**
The best interests of Saint Anne Line pupils are a top priority in all actions. The values and principles of the CRC at the heart of this policy.
- **Standard B: The whole school community learns about the CRC**
The Convention is made known to children and adults. They use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.
- **Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos**
Children and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community, based on the CRC, in all areas and in all aspects of school life.
- **Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners**
Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Saint Anne Line pupils develop the confidence, through their experience of an inclusive rights-respecting school community, to play an active role in their own learning and to speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.