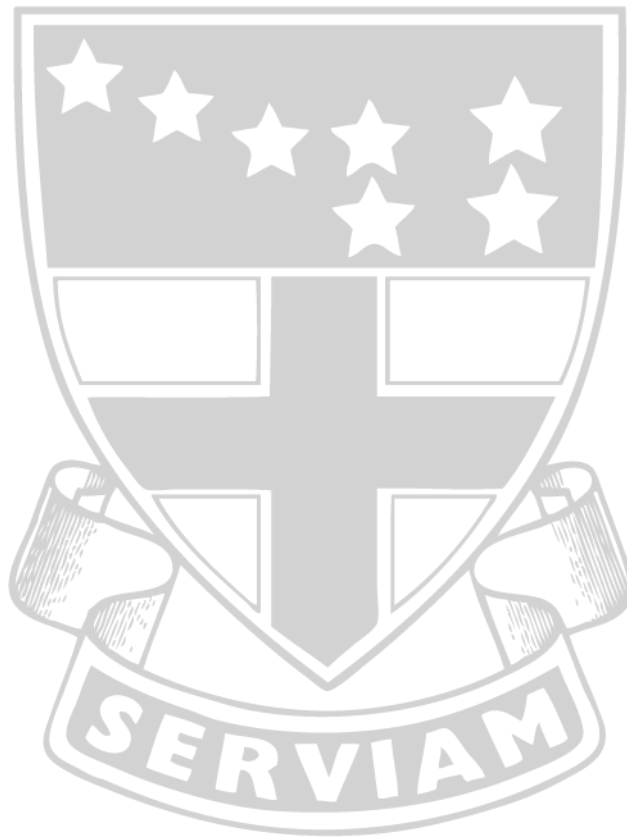


## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**



**Date of Review: July 2022**

**Date of Next Review: July 2024**

## **Prayer Rationale**

Worship, prayer and liturgical celebration are central to the Catholic nature of the school and the religious journey and experience of the students.

The place of prayer is of high importance in our school and through prayer we uphold, and maintain the Catholic ethos. Prayer is part of everyday life in St Angela's, and is performed in several different realms of school life, permeating all aspects of the school. The school has a chapel in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. We encourage its use by all, for prayer and reflection and celebrate Mass on a weekly basis.

The chapel is also used for small class liturgies which occur within the RE curriculum. We have dedicated Liturgy Representatives from each form group, Year 7- Year 11. Each form class is given the opportunity to celebrate a collective mass throughout the year. Marian devotions take place during October and May and special Saint's Days are acknowledged. Staff are encouraged to begin each lesson with a prayer, which are often student led and with an intention.

It is an important reinforcement of the nature of the school, as well as allowing our young people to express their faith in a variety of ways. They therefore understand the nature of the Catholic faith and develop spiritually throughout their time at the school.

Purposes:

- To bring students and staff closer to understanding God and the message of the gospels in their daily lives.
- To enrich the spiritual life of both staff and students at St Angela's.
- To reiterate the Catholic ethos of the school
- To open students to a variety of ways of praying, therefore, exposing them to the spectrum of prayer available in the Catholic Church
- To allow students to question their faith and take an active role in developing the liturgical life of the school
- To reinforce our mission statement based on Romans 10:1
- To provide an environment where prayer is accepted and encouraged
- To give spiritual support for all of those in the school community

## **The Spiritual Life of the School**

“Education is about the growth and development of the whole person. It should aim to integrate a pupil’s intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological, social and physical development, thus assisting progress towards that fullness of life which comes from God.”

(Evaluating the distinctive nature of a Catholic School 1990)

The spiritual development of pupils is the core aim of St Angela’s. Staff are encouraged to begin each lesson with a prayer, which are often student written and led and include an intention.

In addition to the prayer at the start of every lesson, the most concrete way in which we provide opportunities for spiritual growth include Assemblies, Liturgies, Mass, Prayer Groups and Form/Class prayer; these are all developed by students with staff mentoring. Every week assemblies are led by a member of the senior management team, head of year, or by our pupils themselves. All assemblies/class prayers encourage student and staff participation either through active involvement in the preparation and presentation or by listening and participation. Each form class is expected to prepare at least one assembly during the school year based around a chosen theme. The form teacher will organise this with support from the RE department. Appropriate materials are provided, further support and materials can be obtained from the liturgy co-ordinator and the liturgy representative.

### **Weekly Mass**

The weekly mass is on a form class rota, and attended by the class and their form tutor. Mass is also attended by the Head Teacher or Deputies and the Ursuline sisters are in regular attendance, with all being actively involved in the distribution of the Eucharist.

Our Masses are celebrated by one of the four priests of the Community of St John, in the St Antony’s, Forest Gate parish. We sing during the celebration of the Mass and communion is available under both species.

Form classes are provided with readings, and the students write the bidding prayers and the liturgy representatives develop the themes for the offertory and songs. They may perform a drama to the gospel or a post communion reflection on the theme of their mass.

During the year, there may be other occasions when the Eucharist is celebrated for a particular reason e.g. bereavement, and the welcome Mass for Year 6.

## **Whole School Mass**

There are three whole school Masses during the year (the Mass of the Holy Spirit to bless our school year, the Feast of St Angela in the spring term and the Feast of the Ascension in the summer term. Individual members of each form are asked to contribute music, readings and to objects for the offertory.

## **Liturgies**

St Angela's school encourages priests from our Deanery to come into school regularly. They celebrate mass and lead services of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to all year groups at times throughout the year.

The priests are invited to attend all major school liturgies and they participate in some RE lessons. The Deanery employs two full time Youth workers who come into school to work with students on liturgy.

Non sacramental liturgies take place at Christmas, Easter, and during the summer term. Each liturgy is centred on the appropriate theme; with the Easter liturgy being a solemn focus in preparation for the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. End of term liturgies are celebrated by the whole school and are developed by the liturgy representatives to reflect world issues and that of the community. In a similar way to Mass, individual pupils contribute. The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our Catholic life.

Year 11 have a celebration of achievement evening in July and year 13 have a school leaving mass in May. These events and liturgies are focal points in our school year when we come together to thank God and celebrate the collective achievement of the school and praise pupils for their contribution to the life of the school and the community.

## **Assemblies**

Whole school assemblies follow liturgical and secular themes in a cyclical pattern e.g. Advent, the Jubilee Year of Mercy, The Diocese Centenary Year Celebration, the Prevent agenda. Our daily Acts of Worship takes the form of either an assembly or class prayers and reflection.

Class Acts of Worship take place during registration time, they may be led by pupils or the form teacher. Prayers are taken from the planner or the Prayer booklets given to each member of staff at the beginning of the year.

## **Class Prayers**

Pupils are keen to compose their own prayers and will often offer intentions for prayers. The school prayer, the Ursuline Prayer is in the school planner and on every form board. A prayer starts each registration and every lesson.

## **Chaplaincy**

To nurture the development and expression of spirituality, the school has a Chaplain whose role is to maintain the broad aims of liturgy as set out in this document. The role is to organise:

- All school liturgies developed in conjunction with the liturgy representatives
- The use of the Chapel, including lunchtimes groups for vulnerable students
- The booking of priests and speakers
- Creation of resources for staff involved in assembly preparation
- Inset for staff
- Retreats/days of reflection for students and staff

## **Links to the Ursuline Community**

The Ursuline Sisters are an integral part of the school and the students' daily lives. Last year Sister Alice spoke to all of the Year 7 form groups and she has also delivered whole staff INSET, which was disseminated to all of the students. The school is actively engaged at Post 16 with the Ursuline Links Programme and key staff attend our annual Ursuline conference.

## **Student Faith Journey**

Journey of faith, reflective sessions take place for all students in the school chapel. For example, sessions explore the Rosary in October and in November remembrance of those who have gone before us. The sessions follow the Catholic Liturgical Calendar and the Papal Cyclical Year, throughout the academic year. Students have a key role in planning all of the reflective aspects of the sessions.