



Child-led Celebration of the Word Progression

At St Anne Line Infant School and Nursery, we believe that *Celebration of the Word* is an important way to develop our relationship with God, to nurture our spiritual growth, and to build confidence in leading worship. Our children journey through a carefully planned progression from Nursery to Year 2, supported by staff, resources, and the liturgical life of the Church.

We follow a four-stage model, taking the Mass as our inspiration:

1. Gather – We welcome everyone and prepare ourselves to get closer to God.
2. Word – We experience a piece of Scripture, brought to life through drama, art, music, movement, silence, story, song or poetry.
3. Response – We reflect on what we have seen and heard and consider how it relates to us.
4. Send – We rejoice and go forth to live out the Gospel of the Lord in our lives.

Resources available:

- TenTen
- Interactive prayer resources (stones, shells, plants, music, etc.).
- Resources linked to the Liturgical Year (Rosary beads in October, Advent wreath, etc.).
- A Children’s Bible (Nursery and Reception) and/or Good News Bible (Year 1 and 2).



Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<p>Staff-led <i>Celebration of the Word</i> with children encouraged to join in simple actions, songs, and prayers.</p> <p>Children learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make the Sign of the Cross. ● Join in with simple prayer responses. ● Sit quietly to listen to scripture stories. ● Use objects, pictures, and music as prayer focus points. <p>Emphasis on wonder, stillness, and beginning to recognise sacred time and space.</p>	<p><i>Child-led Celebration of the Word</i> takes place weekly, as part of the <i>Celebrate</i> section of each <i>Branch</i>.</p> <p>Children begin to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Help prepare the focal point/prayer table. ● Join in with songs, gestures, or objects to support the <i>Gather</i>. ● Hear and sometimes repeat parts of short scripture passages with support. ● Join in with the <i>Response</i> (e.g. drawing, role play, short prayers). ● Join in with the <i>Send</i> (final prayer and Sign of the Cross). <p>Staff model and scaffold each part of the liturgy, encouraging</p>	<p><i>Child-led Celebration of the Word</i> takes place weekly.</p> <p>On alternate weeks, children gather either in the hall (whole year group) or in their own classrooms.</p> <p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 children (2 from each class) plan the liturgy for their year group with the support of a teacher or TA. ● Children go through each stage of the liturgy (<i>Gather</i>, <i>Word</i>, <i>Response</i>, <i>Mission</i>) using <i>TenTen</i> resources. ● They decide how to gather and what focal point to use 	<p>Continues the Year 1 model of weekly child-led liturgies in hall/classrooms.</p> <p>Increased independence:</p> <p>Children take more ownership of preparation, reading scripture and leading prayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They make choices about how to involve peers (drama, music, silence, movement). ● They are encouraged to connect the scripture more explicitly to daily life and mission. ● Children work towards preparing the prayer table, leading the <i>Gather</i>,



<p>Theme linked to the liturgical year and the branch of RED.</p>	<p>children to join in gradually.</p> <p>Evaluation:</p> <p>All children to evaluate Celebration of the Word and be able to say what they enjoyed and found helpful, and how to improve.</p>	<p>(object, picture, PowerPoint).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Teacher introduces the week's theme and shares scripture; children may read small parts.• Together, children plan how the group should respond (artwork, prayers, reflection). <p>Leading (teacher led, but independence encouraged gradually):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 4 children set up the focal point/prayer table.• They help to lead the Gather, read or present the Word, invite the Response, and share in the Mission (Sign of the Cross, prayer). <p>Evaluation:</p>	<p>reading or dramatising the Word, leading the Response activity and leading the Send.</p> <p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflection continues in the <i>Year Group Celebration of the Word Book</i>.• Children contribute more detailed thoughts on what went well, what they felt, and how they lived the mission afterwards. They may complete a Response.• Photos are taken to record the liturgy. <p>All children have the opportunity to lead a part of the Celebration of the Word over the year.</p>
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