

*"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome.
Through Him, all things are possible."*

Matthew 19:26

Worship Area Policy

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Aims of our worship areas

At St James we recognise the need for developing the spiritual growth of our children through opportunities for reflection. Our school defines spirituality as *“Spirituality is not something we can see it is something we feel inside. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions and connecting with life’s special moments”*

Therefore, we ensure that each classroom has its own worship area so that children, and staff, are given the time and space to:

- **Engage in quiet reflection** in a space that encourages children to calm their minds and process their thoughts and feelings;
- **Pray** in a designated area which is for children of all or no faith so they can engage in personal prayer or meditation;
- **Explore their spirituality** in a safe and respectful environment.

What you will see in our reflection spaces

Each classroom has a designated space for reflection/worship which is clearly identifiable. The space should be accessible for all children and be free from clutter. The space should be presented in line with the school’s display policy. There is no expectation for excessive decoration, as any decoration should be purposeful to the theme/ambience of the space. Our Christian vision and definition of spirituality will be displayed within the space.

Our worship areas will include a Bible, cross and LED candle. The Bible will be of a reading age appropriate for the children in the room. These artefacts will be used during class worship, as well as when required for individuals in the space.

The reflection spaces will also make reference to a window, mirror and door (Liz Mills), as this is a keyway that we encourage spiritual exploration at St James. This could be with a visual image or suitable physical example e.g. hand mirror.

You will see reference made to our current Christian value within the space. There may be other times in the year when artefacts to create wonder are placed within the space. For example, a palm leaf in the lead up to Easter or a Bible quote purposely chosen to create discussion.

There is a prayer space in the main office area that also gives children, and staff, the opportunity to pause, pray, think and wonder. There may be times that our pupil groups lead on the focus for this space e.g. Shades Ambassadors. This larger space will include a Bible, cross and LED candle, as well as any other themed artefacts for the space.

Our Children’s Chaplains also support opportunities for individual prayer and reflection during break times with the use of dedicated resources and activities.

Considerations for our worship areas

Worship areas are open to all children during designated times, such as break times. Children may be directed to a worship area if an adult feels this is appropriate e.g a child expresses a strong desire to pray or reflect during a lesson or make a contribution to the area.

Children are encouraged to treat the worship area with respect and maintain a purposeful atmosphere. Children are free to use the worship area according to their own beliefs and practices. Children are expected to be respectful towards the beliefs and practices of others.

Our school Ethos Team take an active role in monitoring the quality and use of worship areas across school.