

Our Lady's RC Primary School

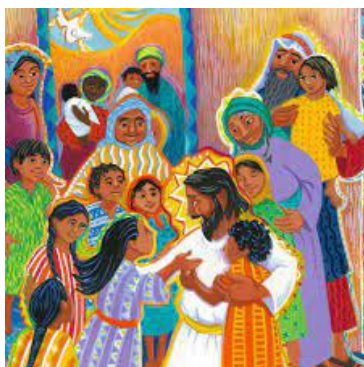


Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Everything we do at Our Lady's RC Primary School stems from our mission statement:

Our Lady's Mission Statement 2023

We welcome you into Our Lady's family.
We know that Jesus is with us and loves us no matter what.
We listen to the word of God and are called to do His good work.
We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone.
We work hard to develop our special gifts and talents so that we can use them to show love for one another.
We work together to care for our 'Common Home' and support our brothers and sisters around the world.
We pray together in good times and in bad times.
We are proud of our faith and try to follow the example of Jesus every day.



'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' Mark 10:13-16

We believe that Christian worship in Our Lady's RC Primary School names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy considers the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of age) or be simple,

including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Prayers are held in class every morning and afternoon to enable each child to 'reflect' on their Christian and morale beliefs.

- A Gospel assembly is held every Monday morning, which holds a reflection on the weekly Gospel and message of how to be missionary disciples in the coming week. We also recognise and congratulate children's success in their weekly work and activities, and identify individual talents in our Star of the Week assembly on Fridays and hymns.
- Prayer and Liturgy takes place in all classes from Nursery to Year Six with the EYFS being planned and led by adults, with Key Stage One and Key Stage Two planning and delivering their own Prayer and Liturgy.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to experience the above. On days when assemblies are not conducted, prayer liturgy is carried out at the beginning of the day, before and after lunch and at the end of the day.

The aim is for all staff to have an awareness of how Prayer and Liturgy can be delivered and CPD through staff meeting and class sessions is carried out with support given to all staff throughout the school year.

Ideas are shared with all members of staff of how to deliver Prayer and Liturgy for the different seasons of the churches year and key vocabulary to be used.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, and the Gospel. Scripture will be a part of the Prayer and Liturgy.
- All classes are encouraged to:
 - Gather – think about how to set up the liturgical space in line with the liturgical year e.g. candle, Bible, Picture, etc
 - Listen – we listen to the Word of God – piece of scripture to be shared with children
 - Respond – we respond to the Word of God – how the Word is responded to through the use of prayer, sacred silence, music, hymns, reflections, etc
 - Go forth – we share the Word of God – how the Word of God can be shared with others in the coming week at home and in school.
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To demonstrate how Prayer and Liturgy is planned and delivered to demonstrate the responses of the children and how it can be shared in the class Prayer and Liturgy book.
- Planning includes a weekly Prayer and Liturgy to be sent to parents on our school newsletter to demonstrate how they can carry out prayer and liturgy at home.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- Planning of liturgies is included on the school planning calendar to be reflected upon the weekly Gospel assemblies.
- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- Shared upon our social media platforms

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are

making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Books, materials and general resources are maintained for individual year groups in their classrooms. A more extensive range of planning material is available from the RE Leadership section of the shared computer drive and the internet.

Ideas and resources are shared by the RE leader and resources are made and shared with staff including planning sheets and ideas for Prayer and Liturgy sessions.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. Children participate in the masses by doing the offertory, reading bidding prayers and readings, etc.

In **EYFS** worship includes:

- Prayer and Liturgy sessions will be planned and led by EYFS teachers
- Prayer leaders to lead the beginning and end prayer and hymns
- Short liturgies with hymns
- Short Gospel readings with time to allow for short reflections
- **Responses of children to be recorded through the use of photographs and written responses**

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- Prayer and Liturgy sessions will begin with being planned with class teacher and then move to work with children to plan. Adults will record on the planning sheet for children.
- Prayer leaders to lead the beginning and end prayers.
- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- Responses to the Word and how the children can go forth to spread the Word of God
- **Responses of children will be recorded through the use of photographs, short prayers and hymns.**

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- Prayer and liturgy sessions will be planned with the support of adults in the class
- Children to show how they will gather together to begin the liturgy
- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- **Prayer and Liturgy will be recorded in class book.**

The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

Miss McIver the Religious Education Leader, fulfils the Prayer and Liturgy roles and responsibilities defined/presented in Appendix 1.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Leadership team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- **Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy**
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Prayer and Liturgy

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing the head teacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school Pastoral Team
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Appendix 2

Diocesan Statement on Prayer and Liturgy

It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Prayer and Liturgy in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

in order to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.