

St. Catherine's Primary School

Policy for Prayer and Liturgy

Mission Statement

***St. Catherine's mission is to educate children
in the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.
With Christ as our Teacher, we grow in Faith as
enthusiastic learners in a safe and supportive family.***

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 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.'

Organisation

Prayer and Liturgy always follows the liturgical seasons. We use resources from TenTen which reflect the weekly Gospel, introduced on a Monday during our Prayer and Liturgy Assembly. Then used each day in classrooms, ending the week together, to reflect during Friday's Prayer and Singing Assembly.

Other times of prayer and worship in the school year include:

Celebration of Feast Days – Mass for Holy Days of obligation, appropriate liturgies for other Feast Days.

Half termly Class masses

Reconciliation Services – for Key Stage 2 in Advent and Lent

Advent Liturgy

Christmas and Easter Prayer Services – for the whole school

KS1 May Procession and the Year 6 leavers Mass.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Classroom

Every Prayer and Liturgy session follows the same structure:

1. Welcome and gather
2. Listen to scripture
3. Worship and respond
4. Witness, go on our mission and apply our learning

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the planning and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy in class. In Key Stage 1, pupils may assist the class teacher in selecting appropriate resources (artwork or artefacts) to fit with a given theme. As children progress through Key Stage 2, they take more responsibility for planning and leading class worship with groups assisted in their planning by the class teacher. Children independently plan class prayer and liturgy sessions, using the resources available and the TenTen scheme. Guided meditation is used in upper Key Stage 2. Children are given the opportunity to reflect on a given piece of scripture and take part in a guided meditation led by the class teacher.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner (Year 6) to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- through displays, on the school website, collections of learners' contributions in our whole school book, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the school year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This is monitored by the R.E. subject leader and SLT.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with learners whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. When preparing for Eucharistic celebrations, we work with the Parish Priest to ensure readings are appropriate and in-keeping with the lectionary for the day.

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- 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.

