



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy

'We will show respect, friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say. We will love each other as you have loved us.'

Vision Statement

Our Vision is to provide a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment where children are happy and want to learn. We seek to live out the Gospel Values, including love, tolerance and respect and we recognise and value every child as a unique and precious individual. We believe in an ethos where children of all faiths (or no faith) and cultures are welcome.

Our vision is to provide the highest quality of education, inspiring everyone towards achieving excellence. Through an exciting and broad curriculum, we want our children to be confident, inquisitive, compassionate, honest and successful. As part of our curriculum offer, we value regular outdoor learning experiences which develop resilience, cooperation and independence.

At the end of Primary School, children will leave us ready and prepared to meet the challenges of the next phase of their education, having been provided with the best opportunities to be successful citizens of the future. They will have high aspirations and understand that there is a future of possibilities.

Mission Statement

'We will show respect, friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say. We will love each other as you have loved us'.

Our Mission Statement is at the heart of everything that we do. As a Catholic school we base all relationships on Gospel Values and they underpin our daily lives in school. We particularly focus on the uniqueness of the child and develop and support each other to love, learn, grow and inspire as one family. At St Joseph's, children are encouraged to journey beyond their expectations. It is a school where every child has the chance to shine and is prepared for a future of possibilities.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in a Catholic 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between 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. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'Collective Worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy takes into account 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.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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.'

Principles

All acts of prayer in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

The Timetable of Prayer and Liturgy is as below:

Timetable for Celebration of The Word, Mass and Assembly 2024-2025
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Class 1			Celebration of The Word		Mass	Assembly
Class 2	Celebration of The Word	Mass		Assembly	Celebration of The Word	
Class 3		Celebration of The Word	Mass		Assembly	Celebration of The Word
Class 4	Celebration of The Word	Assembly		Celebration of The Word		Mass
Whole school	Mass	Mass		Mass		

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Leading Prayer and Liturgy

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy. The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

Recording

Prayer and liturgy is recorded in floor books.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and liturgy is monitored using prayer and liturgy monitoring form.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

Resources

RE resources can be located in Year 6 classroom.

Mr Fannan is responsible for managing them.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

The Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy is Mrs Ashton.

The Role of the Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children' □ Organising themes for prayer times.
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator 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.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005