

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

2023 - 2024

'The Love of Christ impels us'

To be

Ready, Respectful and Safe



**'To love one another as I have loved
you'**

Policy for Prayer and Liturgy

Mission Statement

'To love one another as I have loved you'

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian worship in St Peter and St Paul 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.¹

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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 collective worship 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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

We endorse the belief that 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

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to 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.

- 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.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Collective Worship 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.'

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.³ 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 life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. *For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2*);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Collective Acts of Worship take place every day either in class, as a Key Stage or as a whole school.

Class Worship

Worship in a Catholic school should be joyful and purposeful in order for it to become a truly spiritual experience. Class Worship is planned as a quiet time for reflection and takes place on the days children do not attend assembly.

Prayer

Prayer is central to life in our school. Children participate in various forms of prayer throughout their school life (spontaneous prayer, traditional prayer, modern prayer, biblical and liturgical, silent prayer, hymns and praise). Prayer can happen anywhere and should be a true relationship between God and the child.

At St Peter & St Paul the day begins and ends with a prayer in each class and prayers are also said before and after lunch

Copies of the school prayers for each year group can be found in the RE folder on the Staff drive and are available on the website for parents. Varying the prayers you use is a good idea and the prayers children write for each topic should also be used during worship if children are happy to do this. Private prayers or intentions can be referred to in a more general prayer.

Hymn practice

Hymn practice takes place as and when needed.

Mass and Assemblies

Mass is celebrated at the beginning of each term and on Holy Days of Obligation that fall in term time. A special Mass is celebrated for Year 6 children and their families shortly before they leave for secondary school.

Whole school assembly takes place on a Tuesday morning. Special assemblies are celebrated in school throughout the year. For example, Harvest, Advent, Lent and Easter.

Class assemblies take place on a Thursday morning three times a year.

Key Stage assemblies take place on a Friday.

On a rota basis, each year group in KS2 organise and prepare a class Mass which is celebrated in the chapel.

Rosary groups

Rosary groups take place twice a year during the months of October (The Month of the Rosary) and May (The Month of Mary). These are voluntary groups which take place at lunchtime and are led by the school pupil chaplaincy team. While it is not compulsory for children to attend, teachers are asked to encourage their children's participation by regularly reminding them of the dates and times and displaying a poster in their classroom.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- 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 pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Pupil Led Worship and Assemblies are recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Prayer and Liturgy Book
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

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

There is a wide range of books for class worship, banners for the class prayer focus and information and resources to support the teaching of RE units and other faiths. If there are any resources you need to support the teaching of classroom RE please ask one of the RE leaders.

There is also an RE folder on the Staff drive which has a range of resources to support both the teaching of RE and class worship including power points, hymns/music and a list of useful websites.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. Whole school masses take place to mark a special occasion or Holy Day and class masses take place for those children in Years 4,5 and 6.

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.

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.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator 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.

Prayer and Liturgy Timetable

Weekly	Monthly	Annually
Whole School Assembly	Rosary Group	Beginning of year mass
Class Assembly- parents attend	Bible stories	Advent reconciliation
Key Stage Assemblies		New year mass
		Lent reconciliation
		Easter liturgies
		Feast Day mass
		Year 6 Leaver's mass

Important feast days in the Liturgical Year

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (26 November)

ADVENT Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (8 December) This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (25 December) On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (31 December)

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (1 January)

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (7 January)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (8 January)

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (2 February)

ASH WEDNESDAY

JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (19 March)

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

HOLY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days. Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven.

PENTECOST SUNDAY This is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Today we celebrate our belief in the Trinity, the three persons of God: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST On this feast we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (7 June) On this day we remember how much Jesus loves us all.

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, APOSTLES (29 June) We celebrate the lives of these important saints who helped establish the Christian Church and the patron saints of our school.

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 and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher 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 Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher 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 chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice 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

