

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



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Our Mission Statement

Together we grow in faith, knowledge and love.

Together we show respect, kindness and confidence.

Together our community shines.

Our Mission Statement highlights the power of unity and shared values in fostering growth and positive relationships within a community. At St Anne's we work together with respect, kindness and confidence to truly make a difference. We aim to meet the needs of every child through a challenging, enriched curriculum. Providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment. We know when we come together our community thrives and shines

Policy for Prayer and Liturgy

This Policy for Prayer and Liturgy at St Anne's is underpinned by our school mission statement-

ST ANNE'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Here at St Anne's RC Primary School, we work together, learn together, care and play together in God's love to enable each unique person to achieve their full potential.

We aim to meet the needs of every child through a challenging, enriching curriculum, where everyone feels valued and respected. We aim to always provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment through inclusive partnerships between children, parents, our school, our church, our Parish and the wider community.

ST ANNE'S SCHOOL PRAYER

This is our School,
May we all live happily together.
May our school be full of joy and love,
May we love God and one another
And always try to make St Anne's a lovely
place to be.
Amen

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all our pupils.¹ (This will take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all our pupils, or separate acts of worship in class/reflection/key stage groups.) We recognise that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We further 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.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

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

We recognise that we are created by God, in His image and likeness, and that Prayer and Worship call us into relationship with Him. Prayer and Worship are therefore an integral part of school life at St Anne's and central to the Catholic tradition.

Our aim is to educate all our pupils in the experience of liturgy and worship that actively involves them in a way best suited to their age and developmental stage to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. 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

¹ Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgy. 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 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, at St Anne’s aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To nurture the uniqueness of each individual as a member of God’s family
- To reflect on both spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To experience a real sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of: Reverence, Contemplation, and Reflection
- To enrich our pupils religious experience and assist the Church in its mission of making Christ known to all people
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are an integral part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer, worship and spiritual reflection
- To develop a sense of wonder, awe and inspiration in the person of Christ and God our Creator

Liturgy

Liturgy is a communal act in which we praise and worship God. Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church’s life and our lives. All good liturgies involve the telling of the story of Christ and His church. Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses; sight, touch, sound, taste and smell. In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer, through word and gesture, silence and stillness. The purpose of adapting liturgy for pupils is to lead them in full conscience and active participation in the wider liturgy of the church. Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and sympathy. Good liturgy touches our lives in such a way that we are renewed in our mission.

We recognise that in Liturgy, worship as a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Prayer and Liturgy involves members of the school community coming together and participating in worship. We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Worship may include but is not limited to-

Silence	Meditation	Prayer of adoration
Poems	Singing	Prayer of praise
Scripture	Sayings	Prayer of thanksgiving
Ritual	Dance	Prayer of petition
Processions	Visuals	Prayer of imagination
Drama	Gestures	Spontaneous prayer
Movement	Using artefacts	Traditional prayer
Sharing food	Sharing thoughts	Shaking hands

Prayer

“Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”
[Therese of Lisieux]

Prayer consists of listening, speaking, reflecting and resting.

‘It is important to ensure that our prayer reflects the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging, a feeling of loneliness, celebration and peace, anger and upset.’ –RE: The Primary Years, Danny Sullivan.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief in a God who communicates with people. God calls every human person into a loving relationship and as with every relationship, our relationship with God can only grow through communication. Prayer is the way in which we engage in communication with God. We recognise prayer as an encounter with God.

Christians believe that prayer is essential to human fulfilment for it is only in God that we can discover ourselves, our meaning and our purpose.

Prayer should be seen by adults, and children, as a special way to talk to God, and time is set aside for it at the beginning, middle and end of each day, as well as during class Liturgies. Spontaneous prayer and reflection on what has happened in the lives of our children at home, and at school is important. When praying with children we must remember that each of them is unique and therefore their prayer is unique. They come from different homes, with different experiences and an individual set of anxieties and questions. Teachers provide creative and varied opportunities for prayer so that children from many diverse backgrounds have the best opportunities to discover their own spiritual response.

Each classroom has a special and visible Prayer and Liturgy area which supports children in their communication with God, this consists of an altar and display related to the Church season and/or the topic being taught through ‘Come and See’ and Caritas in Action. The focus area should have a liturgical coloured cloth, Bible, crucifix, candle, photograph of the Prayer leader/angel and any other objects or symbols which encourage reflection and spontaneous prayer.

PRAYER EXPERIENCES

The forms and styles of prayer that children experience is varied:

- Traditional Prayers e.g. Hail Mary
- Repetitive prayer phrases
- Praying the psalms “I thank you for the wonder of my being.” (Psalm 139)
- Scripture – reflections on this
 - Bodily prayer – genuflecting
 - Prayer of the heart – stillness “Be still and know that I am God.”
 - Contemplation
 - Gestures e.g. the sign of the cross and the sign of peace
 - Hymns, both modern and traditional
 - Music – listening to quiet reflective music or other
 - Litanies – e.g. Thanks be to God
 - Processions – Gospel processions with sung acclamation
 - Prayer services and liturgies
 - Celebrations – gathering in prayer, song, scripture, sharing food and celebrating all aspects of life
 - Use of visuals – art, banners, displays,

Pupils are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, which are developed in ways which are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO PRAYER

Knowing prayers by heart is a gift for life. Those prayers marked * are ones that children will learn to say from memory –

Foundation Stages (Aged 3-5)

- Sign of the cross *
- St Anne's school prayer
- Hail Mary
- Our Father
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Simple responses at Mass
- Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)
- Simple litanies of thanks and praise
- Prayerful reflection on the day
- Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath
- Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Key Stage 1(Aged 5-7)

All those listed above, and:

- Sign of the cross *
- Hail Mary*
- Our Father*
- St Anne's School Prayer
- Glory be to the Father*
- Morning Offering*
- Grace at Meals*
- Act of Sorrow
- Mass responses*

Key Stage 2 (Aged 7-11)

All those listed above, and:

- I confess*
- Eternal rest*
- Act of contrition*
- The mysteries of the Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Prayers at Mass: - Penitential Rite - Glory to God (Gloria)
- Offertory prayers - Lamb of God - Holy holy, holy*
- Some simple phrases from the psalms

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', Ten Ten and Mark 10 Mission, Little Liturgies resources and makes links to significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship. Pupils will develop skills that enable them to prepare, organise and Liturgies in a meaningful way.

The format for Collective Worship at St Anne's school will be:

Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

Listen – liturgies will normally centre on a text from the Bible from which The Word of God will be proclaimed.

Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.). We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers).

Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Resources

Each teacher has access to 'Come and See' and Caritas in Action relevant to their year group. They also have access to Ten:Ten and are able to access the Mark Ten Mission resources. There are a class set of children's Bibles and RE resources in class and shared areas. A class Bible is displayed on each RE altar in all classrooms.

Ten:Ten Collective Worship Resources

These Collective Worship programme is adapted to help our children grow in faith, love, understanding and compassion. This is done through a wide-range of media-rich prayer, liturgy and worship resources. We use the Assembly resources which are rooted in the Sunday Mass readings and include original, creative content i.e. film, story and animation which lead to both prayer and reflection. Teachers also have access to the daily prayers (Monday to Friday) for every week of the school year, which are led in the classroom by our staff or pupils and again are rooted in the Sunday Gospels, following the liturgical prayer structure.

The Mark 10 Mission



We want all our children to experience the joy of the Gospel and know Jesus's love for them. We also complement our worship through use of the Mark 10 Mission resources which have been created 'Little Liturgies' for children in EYFS, KS1 and Children's Liturgy at church. Each liturgy presents a simplified Gospel reading, a quick reflection, a prayer and a worship song.

The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

Collective worship is co-ordinated by a member of the school RE team- in consultation with the head teacher, RE Lead, and liaising with the parish priest as appropriate.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE team and is evaluated and reviewed every two years or as deemed appropriate.