

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester

'Following Jesus in all we do'



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Contact Details

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The legal requirement is that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This may take place in whole school, key stage or class settings. Acts of worship may take place at any time during the day. It may take the form of a single act of worship with the school community or separate acts of worship in groups. Prayer and liturgy at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims

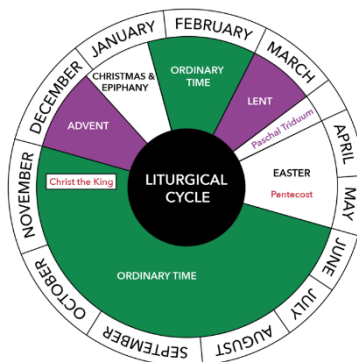
We believe that prayer and liturgy in our school community will provide a variety of spiritual opportunities to deepen our relationship with God in a variety of different ways. We strive to develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy and meditation.

Taking part in Prayer and Liturgy will allow us:-

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer;
- To enable each child to participate and respond to liturgy and worship;
- To further strength our links with the Parish Community.

Implementation

The Liturgical Calendar allows pupils and staff to have the opportunity to experience different forms of prayer – formal, traditional prayers of the Church and school day, spontaneous, meditative and reflective. Prayer time is quality time and participants are given the opportunity to take part in a meaningful way in order to develop a real 'sense of prayer'. Prayer and Liturgy times are clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery. Pupils help to plan and lead Prayer and Liturgy within their class.



Prayer follows Diocesan Guidelines and the children therefore need to learn traditional prayer formulae. Pupils should be encouraged to understand why we say the prayer and what the prayer is about e.g. Stations of the Cross in Lent, the Rosary in October. The Liturgy Planners help the class teacher to lead class prayer every day.

Prayer weeks happen two to three times a year to expose staff and pupils to different forms of prayer and activities based around prayer. These prayer weeks then influence how prayer is planned for and led by both teachers and pupils in and out of class. The Liturgical Calendar plays a large part in the planning of Prayer and Liturgy e.g. Holy Days of Obligation, Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter.

All classes have a focal point for prayer and religious artefacts in their classroom to support pupils in their prayer and worship. Other areas of the school are used for prayer including the hall, church and the Marian Garden.

The annual plan of provision (APOP) outlines prayer provision for the whole school alongside the Liturgical Calendar. This is a working document which is updated termly by the RE team.

These are the opportunities for worship to take place weekly:

Monday – Prayers in own classroom. Gospel Celebration of the Word (either virtual or in person in Key Stages). Prayer with Pre-school.

Tuesday – Prayers in own classroom.

Wednesday – Prayers in own classroom.

Thursday - Prayers in own classroom. Mixed class Mass or Service of the Word (see timetable) or teacher led prayer and Hymns.

Friday – Prayers in own classroom. Whole School Prayer and Praise.

Once a week each class will have a Class Celebration of the Word that is either teacher or child led on a day to suit the class timetable.

Structure of Celebration of the Word:

Celebration of the Word in our school will follow the structure below and be planned by either staff or children: -

Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sat in a different format, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

Word - a reading from the Scriptures

Respond – reflection time, prayer, discussion around the theme of the Scripture, silence, hymns or music

Mission - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy in form of an idea, message, challenge, that they can take into their daily lives.

Celebration of the Eucharist

This takes place weekly in school or Church for individual classes or groups of classes and on Holy or celebratory days. Parents and parishioners are welcome to attend these weekday Masses. Children taking part in the liturgy are well prepared by practising in advance in school and supported by their parents at home.

Children's Masses are also arranged at St Joseph's Catholic Church every month. At these Masses children have the opportunity to take part in liturgy, offertory, singing and welcoming parishioners.

Key Stage Expectations

Reception and KS1 children will help the teacher decide on aspects of Celebration of the Word on a weekly basis and may help to deliver these or parts of these to the class. Children will use the Planner from the Diocese.

KS2 Liturgy Planners are expected to plan and lead one full session of Class Celebration of the Word every fortnight. On weeks where they do not deliver the class Celebration of the Word, the faith leaders support the class teacher in delivering the session the teacher has planned. Children will have the opportunity to evaluate their sessions and sessions of other classes every half term. Children will use the planner from the Diocese.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governors are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to prayer and liturgy, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996, the school standard framework 1998 and The Prayer & Liturgy Directory 2023. It is the overall responsibility of the Governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy are being delivered. The RE Governor will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the RE Lead and Governor and is evaluated and reviewed every two years.

Monitoring takes place in line with the school's monitoring policy. The policy document and curriculum planning are evaluated and revised, if necessary, in line with school development. The RE Coordinator monitors and evaluates the policy and reports to the RE Governor.