

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester

'Following Jesus in all we do'



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Contact Details

RE Coordinator

Miss Marina Annese

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Mrs Louise Nickless

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,

Chedworth Drive,

Warndon,

Worcester,

WR4 9PG

Telephone: 01905 452772

Email: office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.

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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. 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 further strength our links with the Parish Community

Implementation

Pupils and staff 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 RE Support Network 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.

This takes place weekly:

Monday – Prayers in own classroom. Headteacher led Prayer and Liturgy (either virtual or in person in Key Stages).

Tuesday – Prayers in own classroom. Mixed class Mass or Service of the word (see timetable) or teacher led Prayer & Liturgy.

Wednesday – Prayers in own classroom. Class Prayer and Liturgy (either Weds/Thurs).

Thursday - Prayers in own classroom. Class Prayer and Liturgy (either Weds/Thurs).

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

Structure of Prayer and Liturgy:

Prayer and liturgy in our school will follow the structure below: -

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);

Listen (word) - a reading from the Scriptures

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

Go forth (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; an invitation is sent home from the children. 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 second Sunday of each month. At these Masses children have the opportunity to take part in liturgy, offertory, altar serving, singing and welcoming parishioners.

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 and the school standard framework 1998. 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.

RE Link Governor: Kevin Gowdy

RE Coordinator: Miss Marina Annese

Collective Worship Coordinator: Mrs Louise Nickless

Head Teacher: Mrs Louise Bury

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