

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER RC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prayer and Liturgy POLICY
**“Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20)**

Reviewed: **October 22**

Date to be reviewed: **October 24**

St. Joseph the Worker R.C. Primary School

A Policy for Prayer and Liturgy

MISSION STATEMENT

“Together as God’s children we will, love, learn, grow, inspire, Let your light shine”.

The Nature of Collective Worship:

We believe that Christian worship 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. At St. Joseph’s Christ is at the centre of our School Community.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of prayer and liturgy for all pupils either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so must contact the Head teacher.

It is also a statutory requirement that an inspection under section 48 must be carried out in Catholic School. It is the duty of the governing body of any voluntary or foundation school in England, which has been designated under section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by the Secretary of State of having a religious character to secure that; the content of the school’s collective worship are inspected under this section.

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 occasions in the academic year, all children will walk to St Joseph the Worker RC Church to attend Mass.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

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**

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 prayer and liturgy 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 prayer and liturgy at St Joseph the Worker RC primary 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. 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 5-10 minutes for KS1 and 10 -15 minutes for KS2.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

During each week, there will be three assemblies in school when opportunities for greater numbers to worship together will take place.

- Monday is a celebration assembly where the whole school gathers.
- Wednesday is EYFS/KS1 Choir and KS2 Choir. At the beginning of each Choir, there is a time for prayer and reflection.
- Thursday is Liturgical assembly for the whole school.

The main focus of every beginning and every end of our school day is to be spent in prayer. The teacher in every class is responsible for organising the opportunity for spiritual devotion. Each class is to have a designated area devoted to spiritual enrichment. Children and staff will pray together at the four major parts of the day, the beginning of the morning for 5 minutes and at the end of the morning for 5 minutes. Particular emphasis will be paid, at this mid-day session in thanksgiving for all meals that are prepared and for those who have prepared them. A further 5 minutes will follow lunch time and 5 minutes at the end of the school day.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy:

Prayer and liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's Liturgical seasons, Come and See scheme of work, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all 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 pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead prayer and liturgy.
- To ensure that when gathered for prayer and liturgy each member participates fully meaning that the whole person is engaged in body, mind and spirit.

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Recording:

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- On teacher's weekly RE planning sheets.
- 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. Observations by the Headteacher, RE subject leader and RE Committee members.

Resources:

Each class has its own prayer focus area equipped with Bibles and artifacts. There is a central resource area for RE resources for all teachers, which is replenished and refreshed frequently.

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. 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. When preparing these celebrations various resources will be used to ensure that our teaching is accurate.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach.

In school, therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At EYFS and 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.
- Worship for topic events in news.
- Weekly singing assembly with a prayer focus.

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.
- Worship for topic events in the news.
- Weekly singing assembly with a prayer focus.

The RE Leader will take responsibility for Prayer and Liturgy:

The coordinator will endeavour to carry out the following duties among others throughout the academic year:

- 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.
- Organising themes for prayer and liturgy
- Assisting the Governors and Head Teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy.

Policy Monitoring and Review:

This policy is monitored by the RE Lead and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and Governors every two years. The RE Committee Governors in particular will play the most important role.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating:

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of prayer and liturgy.
- Informing the Head Teacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy.

Communication:

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the Governors and Head Teacher 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 Parish Priest.
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre.
- Meetings with the GIFT and Caritas teams

Professional Development and Ongoing formation:

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy.
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, RE Lead network meetings and reporting back.
- Keeping up to date by personal reading.

Signed Chair of Governors _____ **Date** _____

Signed Headteacher _____ **Date** _____