



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

'Loving, Learning and Reaching out to All'

Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person." Pope Francis

Chair of Governors	Anna Houghton
Headteacher	Angela Sutton
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Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Vision



For our children to fulfil their unique human potential, follow the Gospel values by loving, learning, and reaching out to all. At Our Lady's our curriculum is designed to be rich, ambitious, and challenging; one that is broad, balanced, and relevant, fostering curiosity, creativity, and a life-long love of learning for all children. For our children to be aspirational and well prepared for each stage of education, employment or training and enable them, as educated citizens, to contribute to creating a better world. For our children to have a sound understanding of their heritage and have open hearts and minds to the diversity in their immediate community and the world beyond. For our children to be healthy in body and in mind. To give children, who would otherwise not, the opportunity to participate in a range of sports and healthy activities. For our children to appreciate experience and engage with all forms of the arts. For children to develop the skills within music, design technology and art to enable them to access a world of possibilities that music and art can offer them both now and later in their lives.

Aims

Prayer and Liturgy aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by: -

- Providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- Developing a community spirit.
- Promoting and encouraging a common ethos and sharing values and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- Providing opportunities to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues.
- Building a firm foundation of Liturgy.
- Providing an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Ensuring pupils have the opportunities to explore their own beliefs.
- Respecting and celebrating life.
- Enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging.
- Promoting each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

Objectives

To fulfil these aims, Our Lady's will provide opportunities for our community to: -

- celebrate life and learning
- give worth to
- wonder at
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- pray together
- take part in worship through prayer, drama and song



- follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- explore the child's own experiences by helping everyone to EXPLORE, REVEAL & RESPOND with regard to all acts of prayer and liturgy.

Prayer and Liturgy- Who?

At Our Lady's, Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Prayer and Liturgy after consultation with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure provision of Prayer and Liturgy daily for each child. Teachers enable Prayer and Liturgy to take place each day.

Prayer and Liturgy – Where?

Parents/Carers/Families and governors are invited to participate in acts of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school year. Prayer and liturgy are a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. We acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from daily Prayer and Liturgy.

In the classroom – this room is where our children spend most of their time; therefore, it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure, and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and members of staff. Here, a focus for worship is provided based on a Come and See topic, time of the year or relevant theme. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in the planning process.

In the school hall – here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers, governors, parishioners and family friends, come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the open – we have plenty of space outside to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In church – both our parishes are beautiful places to share the message of the Gospel. They are places we can come together to share and worship with our parish community.

Prayer and Liturgy – When?

We assemble in a variety of groups including class groups, key stage groups and the whole school.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Prayer and Liturgy led by Mrs Sutton-Headteacher	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led	Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher Rota	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led

Themes for Prayer and Liturgies are often based upon the Come and See themes, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects and global, national or local events. Teachers may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

Acts of Prayer and Liturgy will always include an appropriate reference from scripture, read from the Good News Bible.

Resources to enhance Prayer and Liturgy are kept in the RE area in school.

Celebration Assemblies

Classes prepare and lead a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See theme to which all parents/carers, family, friends and governors are invited.

On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebration assembly. Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are always invited to these whole school acts of Prayer and Liturgy e.g. Advent, Lent, end of year etc.

School Mass

On the first Thursday of every month, Father Dominic comes in to school to lead a School Mass, to which parents/ carers, parishioners and governors are invited to.

Hymn Practice

Every other Thursday, children at Our Lady's gather together with the RE lead to do hymn practice in the school hall.

Celebrating Achievements



Children are recognised for living out our mission statement through the 'Mission Statement Award Certificate' each week. This achievement is celebrated during the Stars Assembly, which is led by the Headteacher or a member of the Teaching staff.

Children with Additional Needs

The whole school approach to Prayer and Liturgy is inclusive, the individual needs of every child are considered when Prayer and Liturgy is being planned.

Continuity and Progression

The content and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy allows for the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding. Much of the worship is governed by the themes in the Come and See programme. This ensures progression and continuity, as both these aspects of a child's learning are an integral part of Come and See. The themes covered encompass a structured, well-planned programme.

Cross Curricular

Prayer and Liturgy is an educational activity or experience. It includes many areas of the curriculum and care is taken to fulfil our mission. Hence, our whole curriculum is celebrated, as we believe that every aspect of school life helps to develop the child's potential as an individual.

Evaluation and Assessment

Children are shown the skills and given opportunities to reflect and evaluate their acts of Worship. Children are encouraged to articulate the ways in which these experiences have shaped how they think about themselves and the world and how this has inspired them into action.

Recording

Acts of Prayer and Liturgy are shared on Class Dojo and twitter to inform parents of weekly themes, liturgical celebrations and work done through other organisations such as CAFOD, Mary's Meals and Mission Together. The school website is kept up to date with termly overviews of Prayer and Liturgy.

Prayer

All teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the



child's school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Prayer and Liturgy.

Children gather for prayer at the start and end of the day and before and after mealtimes. We also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises. Our prayer stations around the school encourage and facilitate this for our children.

School prayer booklets are provided for each key stage and are shared with parents and are available on the school website.

Children are encouraged to have an active role in planning the Prayer and Liturgy. They can share their own prayers with peers and create the atmosphere for successful worship through the selection of readings and music.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purpose of this guidance as: -

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Promoting British Values:

At Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, we aim to help, guide and prepare our children as future citizens. Our Mission statement encourages all stakeholders to Love, Learn and Reach out to All. This statement permeates through our school and encapsulates the British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We grasp every opportunity throughout the school day to teach, model and show these key attributes.

In Conclusion:



Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady's provides opportunities for pupils and staff and wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our faith journey. We firmly believe that worship is a central feature in the life of our school. Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Prayer and Liturgy should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.

