



## The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School.



### Prayer and Liturgy Policy

#### Our Mission Statement

##### **Why does this school exist?**

The school exists to increase levels of knowledge, understanding and skill, so that those who teach, learn and work in it are empowered to proclaim the Gospel message of life and hope to their own and future generations.

##### **What does it seek to do?**

The school seeks to raise standards, develop enquiring minds, kind hearts, helping hands, and encourage everyone to follow the way of life marked out by Christ.

##### **How will the school operate?**

Working in partnership to achieve these goals, the school community will be guided by the gospel values of freedom, fairness and love.

##### **What are the school's expectations?**

The school expects to bring out the best in all who teach, learn and work in it.

#### **Aims**

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to be brought closer to God through reflection and prayer.
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- To consider moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response, either through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening and watching.
- To celebrate and affirm the values and ethos of our school: Everyone should feel included, valued, listened to and able to contribute with confidence. To develop a sense of belonging to the school and parish community.
- To encourage pupils to become world citizens who are aware of the universal principles of right and wrong, justice, peace and fairness and to be concerned for others and the world.
- To mark special occasions in the liturgical, school and other faith's year as well as national and international events.
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

The 1988 Religious Education Act states that "there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils".

## **Expectation**

- There is a daily act of worship/prayer and liturgy in which every pupil can participate.
- Worship is in addition to curriculum RE.
- Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the child's age, personality, social and religious development and faith.
- Any form of Prayer and Liturgy should be an appropriate length for the age of the child such as 5 minutes in reception working to a maximum of 15 minutes in year 6.
- An act of worship commences with the Sign of the Cross to gather the community together, a time for reflection and concludes with a sense of renewed and deepened relationship with God. It must include scripture from the Bible this may be a quote or a longer reading.
- Our acts of worship follow the traditions of the Catholic Church.
- Sharing worship with children is an opportunity to help the child to understand and take part in the adult worship of the Parish, but at their own level.
- All worship is open to all faiths represented in our school.
- The celebration can address the emotions and feelings of the child's experience, reflect thanksgivings, special days or feast days. It gives the opportunity to reflect silently on the word of God.
- Children are given the opportunity to worship through song. We learn a range of traditional and modern hymns in a weekly singing practice.
- Worship in school creates a real sense of belonging for all involved.
- Every opportunity is taken to extend a warm and genuine welcome to priests, parents, parishioners and the local community to take part in the school worship.

## **Opportunities**

We provide a wide range of prayer and liturgy opportunities throughout the year. Opportunities for prayer and liturgy are not limited to the listed activities. The Head teacher, RE co-ordinator and Chaplaincy co-ordinator look throughout the year for ways to engage children and their families in prayer and liturgy activities.

## **Class**

Each half term teachers are given a prayer and liturgy overview which details the prayer focus for each week. It also suggests hymns and resources linked to the weekly focus as well as other liturgical information for example, saint days. The prayer focuses are linked to the liturgical year, prayer cycles and other relevant faith events eg year of mercy, CAFOD campaigns. The Prayer and Liturgy overview is intended to give the staff, and where appropriate pupils, a basis from which to plan and lead worship in class.

- Prayers are said daily at the start and end of the day and before lunch. (Appendix 1 details prayers which we expect year groups to know)
- Each class has an area dedicated to prayer and liturgy. It is changed regularly to reflect changing topics and liturgical seasons. Children are encouraged to contribute to the area with artefacts, questions and prayers.
- The chaplaincy co-ordinator delivers lessons based on the liturgical year (in addition to curriculum RE) and this takes the form of craft activities, singing, prayer and meditation
- Class worship will take place on days when pupils' are not involved in other prayer and liturgy activities.
  - Teachers lead collective worship to model good practice
  - Children are involved in planning and leading worship at an age appropriate level: they might be involved in decisions about seating, artefacts, powerpoint presentations, singing, music, bible reading, role play, meditation.

### **School**

- Key Stage Assemblies are held on a Monday. They are led by the head teacher (or another senior leader if head teacher is unavailable) and are usually based on the Sunday Gospel reading.
- Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy led by a phase leader based on the Prayer and Liturgy focus of the week.
- Key Stage Celebration assemblies are held on a Friday. Parents are invited to attend these assemblies of celebration and thanks. They are led by a member of the Senior leadership team.
- Key stage Singing – we learn a range of traditional and modern hymns. It is led by the Key Stage leader or the Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.
- Non-Eucharistic services when appropriate eg Ash Wednesday, Easter read-around.

### **Church**

- The whole school take part in Masses which mark significant events in the liturgical year, for example, Christmas, Lent, Easter. At the start of the school year, each class from Y1 -6 will attend Mass. Reception classes will start to attend whole school Masses later in the year.
- Pupils from Year 2 upwards will attend Parish Mass as a class on a rota basis throughout the year.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (this may take place in school/church).
- All pupils will be given the opportunity to visit Church eg Stations of the Cross.

## **Involving the Wider school community**

- Every opportunity is taken to extend a warm and genuine welcome to priests, parents, parishioners and the local community to take part in the school worship.
- Details of forthcoming events are included in the newsletter along with an invitation for all to attend.

## **Links with the parish**

Staff and school governors work hard to improve parish/school links.

- A trophy is awarded at the end of the school year to a child in school who has made an active contribution to the parish.
- The school looks to develop links eg by making Christmas and Easter cards for parishioners, taking part in the Parish Carol Concert.
- The Chaplaincy co-ordinator liaises regularly with the parish priest, deacon and parishioners to encourage more involvement in the parish.
- The Chaplaincy co-ordinator supports the Parish Sacramental Programme ; meeting with the Parish priest, catechists, parents and wider parish to help guide children through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

## **Resources**

Resources are reviewed and updated each year in line with the School Development Plan. There is a good selection of Bibles, prayer books and other books which support lessons and collective worship in each classroom. Each class has a set of cloths in the liturgical colours most frequently used (green, purple, white) and a cross is displayed in each classroom. Art work and artefacts are available to support a more creative approach. They can be found in The Loft or by asking the RE/Chaplaincy co-ordinator. On the server, there are resources to support the meditation and reflection. Music and words for hymns are also found on the server.

## **Displays**

Throughout the school there are artefacts and displays which indicate of the Catholic nature of the school. They are maintained by the class teachers, RE co-ordinator and Chaplaincy co-ordinator.

- In the Hall we have a worship table. The theme of the worship table is changed regularly to reflect changes in the liturgical year
- The worship table often has resources available which engage the children and ask them questions which deepen their faith.

- There are plaques, crosses, scripture references and statues visible in the corridors.
- Art work (printed and children's own) is displayed in prominent areas.
- Traditional prayers and class prayers are on display.

### **Children and staff of other faiths**

For children of other faiths who attend our school, care is taken at all time to respect these faiths and to maintain good relationships between different cultures.

### **Parents' right of Withdrawal**

Whilst parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from the worship activities carried out in school, this is strongly discouraged and it is made clear to all parents in induction meetings that they have selected a denominational faith school for their child and what this means. In order to withdraw their child from prayer and liturgy/collective worship activities in school parents must arrange a meeting with the Headteacher so that this can be discussed fully. After the meeting, a formal letter informing the Headteacher of their decision should be made.

### **Health and Safety**

**Candles – when lit.** Candles must be supervised by an adult and must never be left unattended. They should be placed on/in a suitable container and placed on a steady, hard surface. Matches/lighters should be kept in a safe place away from children. Children must be kept at a suitable, safe distance from the candles.

The RE co-ordinator has a set of LED tealight candles which can be used by children and might be more suitable particularly for younger pupils.

### **INSET**

The head teacher, RE co-ordinator and chaplaincy co-ordinator and when appropriate other members of teaching staff attend training linked to Prayer and Liturgy.

This policy was updated October 2018

## **Appendix 1 - Progression of Prayer**

Throughout their time at The Blessed Sacrament School, there is an expectation that pupils will become familiar with a variety of scripture and that every opportunity will be given for the children to express themselves through a variety of forms of prayer.

### **Reception**

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Grace at meals
- Prayer/ song of thanksgiving at the end of the day
- Sign of peace

### **Year 1**

- As reception and
- Hail Mary
- Familiarity with the response to “and with your spirit”
- Familiarity with response to bidding prayers

### **Year 2**

- As Year 1 and
- Glory be
- Our Father

### **Year 3/4**

- As Year 2 and
- Familiarity with the liturgies (parts) and prayers of the Mass
- Simple Act of Contrition

### **Year 5/6**

- As year 3/4 and
- Familiarity with a variety of forms of traditional prayer

### **Morning prayer**

O lord, bless our school,  
So that learning together and playing together,  
We may learn to serve you and to serve one another.

### **Examples of Graces**

Bless us O Lord as we sit together  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that make the food  
Bless us O Lord  
Amen

Bless O lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty,  
though Christ our Lord, Amen

For good food and those who prepare it, for good friends with whom to share it, we  
thank you Lord.

### **End of school**

Good night God, I've come to say  
Thank you for your love today  
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me  
Guard me in the dark of night  
And in the morning send your light  
Amen

All classrooms have prayer books which can be used to find alternative prayers for  
these occasions.

## **Key prayers**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

### **Acts of Contrition.**

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you  
and by the help of your grace, I will try not to sin again. Amen

We thank you loving God,  
That when we come to say sorry  
You are always ready to forgive.  
Please help us to be like you.  
When people say sorry to us  
May we forgive them straight away,  
Ready at once to be friends again.

## **Famous prayers**

### **Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*Amen.*

### **Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next.

*Amen.*

### **Samuel Johnson**

Make me remember, O God, that every day is your gift and ought to be used according to your command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Mother Teressa of Calcutta**

Make us worthy, Lord,

To serve our fellow-men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger.

Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread,

And by our understanding love, give peace and joy.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours, no feet but yours;  
your are the eyes through which to look at Christ's compassion to the world,  
yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good,  
and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

Ignatius Loyola

Teach us, good lord, to serve you as you deserve.  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labour and not to ask for any reward  
save that of knowing that we do your will.

Thomas More

The things, good Lord, that we pray for,  
give us the grace to work for;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.