



## **OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL**

### School **POLICY STATEMENT** for **Prayer and Liturgy**

#### **Mission Statement**

*"We want our school to be a safe, secure and exciting place to learn and grow in Christ. A place where children, staff, families and governors work closely together to answer Christ's call."*



Our Catholic school community works with a Christian purpose

- To promote an enthusiasm for enjoyment of learning
- To provide a board and well-balanced curriculum
- To challenge children to reach their full potential
- To learn about God and his creation
- To answer Christ's call through our love for each other
- To foster in children independence and a sense of responsibility

*"... For you are precious in My eyes"*

(Isaiah Psalm 43)

#### **The Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

We believe that Christian worship, in Our Lady of Lourdes, celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our living response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. It is an essential part of our distinctive ethos; a way to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, reflection, praise and rejoicing.

*'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching, should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'*

Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

#### **The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School**

Whilst a daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement; Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of our school life and is central to our Catholic tradition.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship considers the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in the church;
- Those for who school may be their first and only experience of the church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship.**

We believe that Collective Worship provides opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- to develop a common ethos and shared values
- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to provide times of stillness and silence with reflection time
- to explore personal beliefs
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- to enrich religious experience
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully and enjoy moments beyond the ordinary and everyday
- to take time 'to wonder at'

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that all maintained Catholic schools provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils; (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

The act of Prayer and liturgy is not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

## **Responsibility**

### **(a) Governance**

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

### **(b) Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

### **(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner, which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies

- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

### **Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision**

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Liturgical seasons, current themes and situations and supports the topics covered in the Religious Education Directory. We consider feast days and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Little Way Week. Currently we are using Ten:Ten to sequence our worship but, adapt this to meet the needs of our children. Celebrations of the Word take place regularly each week, with a range of whole school and class-based celebrations.

Prayer in class takes place daily with each class praying our morning prayer, grace before meals and the home-time prayer.

Every Wednesday the children take it in turns to plan, resource and lead their own liturgy. Children are given a title for their liturgy which is linked to the current topic or the liturgical season. Planning sheets are provided, by the teacher, to aid the children. Each class has a file demonstrating these liturgies.

We come together as a school family to worship on a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon. All children come together each Tuesday and Thursday, for a teacher lead assembly.

We celebrate the Eucharist in the form of Mass, with our Parish Priest, at least once every term as a whole school.

Families and the three Parishes are actively invited to join us in different forms of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school's year.

Sorry Services are held during Advent and Lent, with our Parish Priest, to experience times of reconciliation with God, these are teacher and Priest led.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part in our Prayer and Liturgy strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are taken mostly during feast days which occur during school time and parents and parish members are encouraged to attend. Children attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, whenever possible throughout the year.

### **Resourcing**

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious

artefacts and images on display throughout the building. There are some dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Within each classroom you will find a resource box of Religious artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the Liturgical year: resources to support child-led Prayer and Liturgy and age appropriate Bibles and Prayer books. Other resources are available in the Prayer room for particular feast days etc. The teacher and/ or children may choose items from this box when planning and leading their own Prayer and Liturgy.

### **The Learning Environment**

*'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'*

Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season, reference special times in the year or the RED topics.

### **Expectations of Prayer and Liturgy.**

As a Catholic School, Jesus Christ is central to all aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

- Every class will have a prayer table – a focal point for Prayer and Liturgy – which will be treated with reverence, be liturgically correct and follow the Church's year. Daily prayers will be said at the start and end of each day, as well as praying grace before lunch.
- Our whole school Celebration of the Word will focus on the 'Wednesday Word' which shares the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday.
- Hymn practice is celebrated each week; the purpose of which is to enrich Prayer and Liturgy.
- Class Liturgies will always have a specific theme according to the Liturgical season.

### **Training and Formation**

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

### **Planning**

Prayer and Liturgy in our school follows a pattern of:

- Gather: we think about how we come together, the environment, and a focal point.
- Word: we hear a reading from the scriptures, have time to reflect and say a prayer to match the theme.
- Respond: we think about how we will respond to the word of God.
- Send: we give the children something to take away from their liturgical experience that they can act on in their lives and/or share with others.

This planning format is followed in all our Prayer and Liturgy times; whether it is led by the class teacher, pupils or as a whole school worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation.**

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors.

The school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils; whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities to organise and lead Prayer and Liturgy and whether it truly reflects the aims, ethos and mission of the school.

Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

### **Review**

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Written by: Alison Townley, RE Coordinator

November 2023

Review Date - **September 2024**