



St Francis Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis unless circumstances require policy update in the interim.

Approved by:

Date: 19th November 2024

Reviewed on:

Reviewed on:

Reviewed on:

Reviewed on:

School Mission Statement

'I am a sign of God's love'

At St. Francis we love, learn and grow in the footsteps of Jesus and are active signs of God's love through praying, respecting and serving others.

AIMS

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy in St. Francis School will include the following:

- To provide opportunities for children to worship God.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To meet the living God.
- To explore their own belief.
- To develop community spirit.
- To promote and reinforce common ethos.
- To express, in a variety of ways, the distinctive values that underpin the school's existence, vision, outlook against the background of its Mission Statement.
- To offer opportunities to explore the Spiritual Dimension in ways that enable, empower, uplift, ponder, reflect and empathise.
- To provide moments of reflection.
- To offer opportunities to ponder the Word of God and basic religious concepts.

LEGISLATION FOR WORSHIP

1989 legislation states that all schools must begin the day with an act of worship, which should be:

- Inclusive.
- Educational.
- Contribute to Spiritual Development.
- Have a sense of occasion.

ORGANISATION OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

At St. Francis we deliver a wide range of Prayer and Liturgy. This takes place through hymn practices, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two assemblies, weekly class Masses, Whole School Mass and Assembly and weekly class prayer services.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. The children know that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. An appropriate, reflective atmosphere is created by using music and a prominent prayer area for the attention of children.

The whole school joins together each week for Assembly. Monday's Whole School Gospel Assembly is led by all members of staff and focuses on the Sunday's Gospel, resources are taken from TenTen. Key Stages One and Two have separate assemblies once a week, which focus on either the Gospel, Catholic Social Teaching, Saints Feast days, World events, World Faith events e.g. Diwali, Eid etc. or current issues e.g. bullying. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children; we hand out our Values and Virtues certificates in our Key Stage assemblies.

Children are given opportunities throughout the year to share in a form of worship with the Parish Priest. This may take the form of a Class / Whole School Mass or a Prayer Service etc. Children in Years 4 – 6 are given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school during Advent and Lent. Children in Year 3 receive the Sacrament during the Spring Term.

We welcome governors and parents attendance in our weekly Masses at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure (Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth) with reference to the Church's seasons, Values and Virtues, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy. Children across the school (EYFS – Y6) use planning grids and cards. In EYFS and KS1 planning is done with an adult and in KS2, children independently plan and deliver acts of Prayer. In EYFS and KS1 Prayer evaluations are completed by the children as a whole class and in KS2 this is done by the group of children who delivered the Prayer.
- 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 in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

PROGRESSION OF PRAYER

EYFS:

- Grace before meals,
- Grace after meals,
- Hail Mary,
- Morning Prayer,
- Prayer at the end of the day,
- Our Father,
- Sign of the Cross.

Year 1:

- Act of Faith, Hope and Love,
- Glory Be,
- Prayer to the Guardian Angel.

Year 2:

- Act of Faith,
- Act of Hope,
- Eternal Rest,
- Prayer of St. Francis.

Year 3:

- Act of Love,
- Act of Sorrow,
- Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion,
- The Angelus.

Year 4:

- Prayer to the Guardian Angel,
- Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester,
- The Memorare.

Year 5:

- Nunc Dimittis,
- Regina Caeli,
- Benedictus,
- The Magnificat,
- Diocesan Prayer for Vocations.

Year 6:

- Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina),
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

PROGRESSION OF CHILDREN LEADING PRAYER AND LITURGY

Staff prepare and lead most acts of Prayer and Liturgy and are an excellent role model for children.

EYFS AND KS1

At this stage, in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy, the teacher will lead and model. Children are facilitating worship and may lead certain parts.

EYFS

Children may:

- Sing a gather song,
- Make the Sign of the Cross,
- Choose religious artefacts from a limited selection,
- Greet everyone,
- Set up the Prayer Area,
- Lead Prayers,
- Say what they want to pray for.

Year 1

As EYFS, plus:

- Choose artefacts from a wider selection,
- Given the theme, choose an appropriate way to gather or go forth from a limited selection.

Year 2

As Year 1, plus:

- Can explain the purpose, theme and focus of the Prayer and Liturgy,
- From a selection, choose one suitable element (Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth) for the Prayer and Liturgy.

LKS2

As Year 2, plus:

- Provide a suitable focus. They understand their choice and make appropriate use of Liturgical colours,
- Lead singing,
- Incorporate use of Computing,
- Write prayers and petitions that fit the theme of the Prayer and Liturgy,
- Choose suitable ways to Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth.

UKS2

As LKS2, plus:

- Given a set theme can now select appropriate Scripture passages (initially from a limited selection),
- By the end of Year 6, children should be able to develop all parts independently with understanding when given a theme or a passage from the Scripture.

RECORDING

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- In KS2, on a planner to keep notes of themes, leaders and resources. In EYFS and KS1 a photograph of the Prayer Service and planning grid is taken and evidenced in the back of their RE books.
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- Each class will record in their big RE book. This may include: planning produced by the children, photographs of collective worship, reflections and prayers from the children.
- Each class will also have a Prayer Area where Prayers, Scripture and Religious Artefacts can be displayed.
- In our Catholic Life Folder.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

At least once a year the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy 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 Prayer.

This policy is monitored by the RE Subject Lead and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

CELEBRATION OF MASS

As the Mass is the centre of liturgical worship in the Catholic Church, the school believes it has an established place within the life of the school.

Children are involved in the preparation and celebration of the liturgy i.e. the readings, singing, Prayer.

Whole school Masses (including KS1 and Early Years Foundation Stage) are held at least once every half term and take place in Church at significant times during the school year, (beginning and end of school term / year, Advent, Lent, Leavers Mass etc.) Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 join together for their class Mass which takes place on a weekly rota basis in Church and parents and parishioners are invited to attend. Parents and parishioners are invited to all celebrations in school which reflect both their vital role in fostering their child's faith and our desire to maintain a good partnership with parents and the parish.

The school holds an annual May Procession as well as many other religious celebrations such as Harvest Festivals, Lent and Advent. St. Francis also has strong links to the Catholic Cluster in Walsall and both staff and children participate in Masses and celebrations e.g. Mass for those who work in Catholic schools, Vocations Mass, Carol Concerts, Lenten Service etc.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Teachers and children are aware of the risk and correct procedure for lighting candles.