

Collective Worship
Autumn 23

St Mary of the Angels

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"

School Mission

“Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another”

At St. Mary of the Angels:

- we aim to follow Jesus through the teaching of the Gospels and inspire each other to be Christ-like;
- we all work as a big team to encourage everyone to be the best that they can be, at work and at play;
- we create a safe, positive, fair environment where all feel respected and valued.

Our Mission statement underpins this policy and principles.

Aims:

Our aim is to nurture and develop in all children a sense of prayer as a meaningful part of our relationship with God and empower full participation at a level appropriate to their age. We aim to develop leaders of the future through the opportunities provided.

Objectives:

- To develop community spirit and to promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To enable children to reflect upon and celebrate the word of God.
- To enable children to see prayer as a natural expression of their developing relationship with God through excellent modelling.
- To encourage spontaneous and traditional prayer as a means of communicating.
- To know and recite the formal prayers of the Church showing an excellent understanding of the Liturgical Year.
- To give opportunities for silent reflection and to develop in children a sense of stillness leading to meditation.
- To engage and inspire heartfelt responses through various media and artefacts available.
- To develop confident, enthusiastic initiative in children in leading Collective Worship.

The place of prayer and liturgy in the whole school.

The act of prayer is central to the life of the school. It is a way of celebrating our individuality and our communal belonging to the Body of Christ

Day	Theme/ focus
Monday	Gospel assembly - whole school
Tuesday	Hymn practice (KS1) Prayers led by TA/ Teachers using Ten Ten prayer resources (KS2)
Wednesday	Class prayer service prepared and led by pupils
Thursday	Prayers led by teachers/TAs using TenTen prayer resources. (KS1) Hymn Practice (KS1) (KS2)
Friday	Congratulations assembly - led by SLT to praise chosen children for good behaviour and work All staff attend.

Equal Opportunities:

All children are given an equal chance to join in prayer according to their age and ability. At St Mary of the Angels each day begins and ends with a short prayer, these prayers vary throughout the year depending on class focus; lunch begins and ends with a prayer. Prayer is also integral to all RE lessons.

The main purpose of our school assemblies is to bring the school community or part of the school community together, in enthusiastic participation, in liturgy and Prayer. Within each assembly there is always an opportunity for Prayer which involves the children, taking part in a variety of prayer experiences.

Opportunities are embraced for the children to celebrate Mass in year groups, as a parish community and as a whole school, with good levels of participation, throughout the year.

Whole School Plans for prayer and liturgy

Further celebrations include:

- Directives from the BDES e.g. Year of St Joseph, Year of Mercy, Canonisation of St John Henry Newman.
- Sacramental celebrations and relevant preparations and commitment Masses.
- Whole school Masses at the beginning or end of the school terms
- Weekly Mass at church, 1 KS2 class per week on a rota basis (see rota)
- Family Masses celebrated at Sunday Masses throughout the year
- Whole school Harvest Festival Mass - parents and parishioners are invited
- Remembrance Assemblies and Community Parade
- KS2 Christmas Carol Service
- KS1 Nativity
- Holy Week Liturgies (Stations of the Cross)
- Special Assemblies to welcome particular individuals to school eg CAFOD, Father Hudson
- Yr.3 service of Reconciliation followed by individual Reconciliation
- Reconciliation for KS2 across the terms.
- Class / Parent prayer services.
- School Patron Day

Parents and parishioners are invited to join in with these acts of worship, where appropriate, through the school newsletter, the parish bulletin and personal letters from the children and teacher. Opportunities provided for parents' engagement are factored in at different times to maximise participation.

Teaching

Prayer is led by teachers with the children having opportunities for discussion, contribution and participation according to their ages and abilities. The person leading the worship values all contributions, which are inclusive, cherished and valued by all.

KS2 pupils are given opportunities to plan and lead prayer during weekly prayer services. They are given initial guidance from the teacher and then they are encouraged to plan and lead the worship with excellent modelling. Staff training

and CPD enables high quality modelling and challenge to improve methods and styles of prayer.

KS1 pupils are supported by the teacher to plan prayer services. The teacher invites children to select elements for use in their liturgy and prayer services are planned as a class or group as they progress through the school.

Pupils with special educational needs

All children's contributions are valued and children receive assistance if necessary when planning their liturgies. SEN children often excel as a result of excellent provision.

Monitoring

SLT and pupils monitor collective worship through drop ins and pupil voice. (See Monitoring Timetable)

How do the children pray?

The children have the opportunity to find out about and respond in a variety of ways to Jesus' example and teaching with regard to prayer. They are encouraged to explore the different forms of prayer and helped to grow in appreciation of the importance of prayer in developing a relationship with God.

We give children opportunities to

- **Pray in silence** - the children are encouraged to concentrate on an object, a picture, a lighted candle, some quiet background music and are given guidance about what to think:
- **Write and say own prayers**
- **Pray with Prayer Partners**
- **Share spontaneous prayer** - prayers may be prayers of petition for a sick parent, grandparent or friend. Children are also encouraged to express thanksgiving, love and praise to God the Father in their spontaneous prayer.
- **Pray through gestures or actions.** - children are encouraged to make even the simplest gestures thoughtfully so that the gesture or action is a prayer in itself. Gestures that the children will be taught as they move through the school will include: making the Sign of the Cross, joining their hands, offering the sign of peace, bowing their heads at the name of Jesus.

- **Learn the prayers of the Church appropriate to their age** - See Teach us to pray document and prayer booklets
- **Pray through music and song** - Listening to reflective music can create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and reflection. The singing of hymns can be so joyful. "Singing hymns is praying twice." Reflective music and singing are both used during prayer and worship sessions.

Monitoring and Review.

This policy will be reviewed in line with annual school development plans on a one yearly cycle, or earlier if curriculum changes need to be implemented.

Next review September 2024