



St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School **Policy for Prayer and Liturgy**

Mission Statement

"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you"
Romans 15:7

Underpinned by the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, peace, truth and justice, the school family of St Werburgh, is a welcoming and nurturing community where diversity and uniqueness is supported and celebrated.

As a Christ centred community, we encourage each person to reach their full potential, striving for happiness in all aspects of school life.

The Nature of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Prayer and liturgy leads children towards an understanding and appreciation of prayer and Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that prayer and liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for monitoring Prayer and liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Prayer and liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in church

- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of 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.

Worship at St Werburgh's Catholic Primary is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of prayer and liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to explore their own beliefs
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- to develop a common ethos and shared values
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully in worship
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'
- to have opportunities to empathise with others

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- give glory and honour to God
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

At St Werburgh's Catholic Primary School, Prayer and liturgy will be celebrated in the following way:

Monday:

KS1/2 celebration and praise assembly

Tuesday:

All classes will have class based worship. (Mark 10 Mission/Little Liturgies)

Wednesday:

EYFS /KS1/KS2 will have class based worship.

Thursday:

EYFS/KS1/KS2 will have class based worship.

Friday:

Whole school worship celebrating the weekend Gospel lead by the Head, senior leaders and Father Ray.

During particular times of times of the Church's liturgical season, such as Advent and Lent there will be additional opportunities for worship and prayer led by Fr Ray and the children.

Parents and guardians of all children are invited to stay and pray with their class each term.

There will also be opportunities for celebration of the Eucharist, retreats, meditation and the focus on different types of prayer. Staff briefing meetings begin with a prayer and quiet reflection.

Eucharist

The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to "***The Children's Lectionary***" as a basis for our practice.

As well as joining together as a school community to celebrate feast days and mark the beginning and end of the school year, year groups visit the church and join the parish for Mass. Parents are encouraged to attend these celebrations.

Staff and governors join together each year to celebrate Mass with Fr Ray.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy is planned:

- with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- 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

The format for Prayer and liturgy at St Werburgh's Catholic Primary will be:

- Gather – how we come together, the setting, environment, music, icons, candles etc.
- Listen – who will read, scripture, poem, prayer, story etc.
- Respond – the response – prayers, reflection, questions, discussion etc.
- Go Forth – something to take away or hold on to from this act of worship, into their daily lives

How prayer and liturgy is delivered:

- prayer and liturgy should be spiritual
- a time for stillness and reflection
- a special time – conducive to worship
- children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- child-centred, related to children's own experiences and relevant to their lives so that they may actively be engaged
- children will evaluate their prayer and liturgy experience
- class prayer time
- children also pray together in class at the beginning of the school day, before lunch and the end of each day

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the RE Leader and SLT 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 worship.

Training for prayer and liturgy will be part of the induction process for all new staff.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for prayer and liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy
- Providing a good model of best practice

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an act of prayer and liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

Communication

- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Parish Priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Appendix 2

Contents of Worship Boxes

- drapes in the colours of the liturgical year
- class Bible (age appropriate)
- a holding cross
- statues
- candles
- picture of Pope/Bishop/Priest
- prayer books
- rosary
- pebbles, stones, feathers, hearts, shells
- prayer cards
- worship planners
- gather, word, response, go forth cards

Green – Ordinary Time

Purple – Advent and Lent

Red – Pentecost

Gold – Easter and Christmas

White – Easter, Christmas, Baptism

To be reviewed by Governors 2nd May 2023