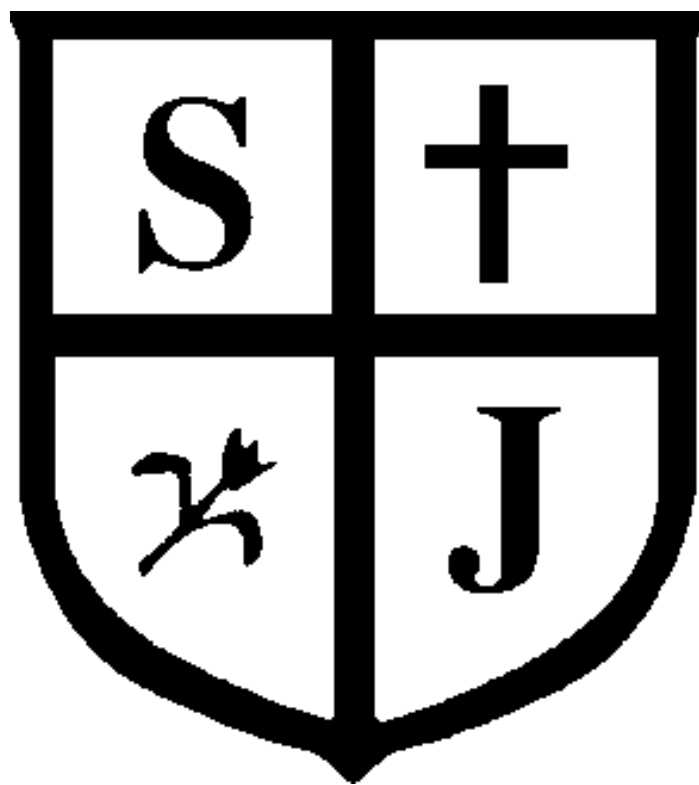


St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



**“A loving Christian family,
striving to achieve excellence.”**

2025-2026

Mission Statement

**At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary
school we are
‘A loving Christian family, striving to achieve
excellence’.**

Our mission is to develop a Christ centered community, which recognises Christ's love in every person and reflects the gospel values in the life of the school.

General Statement

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary school we believe our Prayer and Liturgy underpins the whole community, which enables the children to develop a sense of worth in God's care.

It is an important part of the child's religious experience within our school.

It links with our Mission Statement:

‘A loving Christian family, striving to achieve excellence’.

The Purpose of Prayer and Liturgy.

- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development.
- To provide opportunity for children to share and express their thoughts and feelings.
- To give glory, honour, thanks and praise to God.

Aims of Prayer and Liturgy.

- Foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and action
- To develop spirituality and enable ‘communication’ with God.
- Provide different opportunities for pupils and staff to worship God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the wider community it serves.
- To enable children to gain insight into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional and spiritual response.
- To encourage participation and response, through active involvement in the planning and presentation of worship.
- To develop community spirit and encourage a sense of belonging, promoting a common ethos and shared values which reinforce positive attitudes.

Why Prayer and Liturgy?

- to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God;
- to provide an enriching and positive religious experience, where children become active participants developing in their faith journey;
- to develop a greater sense of who they are within the home, parish and wider community;
- to provide opportunities for those children where school may be their first experience of church;
- to provide an awareness of other Christian traditions and faith backgrounds.

Responsibility of Prayer and Liturgy

- GOVERNORS have the responsibility of agreeing on a policy statement for Prayer and Liturgy after consulting with the Headteacher;
- HEADTEACHER role is to ensure that an act of Prayer and Liturgy is provided for every child daily (Noted on class timetables);
- TEACHERS plan and enable Prayer and Liturgy to take place each day, sometimes acting upon a child's initiation;
- PARENTS can be invited to participate in Prayer and Liturgy (particularly a celebration of Come and See topic);
- PUPILS must have the opportunity to take part in daily Prayer and Liturgy and may initiate their own for the class.

Principles of Prayer and Liturgy.

All acts of worship in St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School will be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experiences and relevant to their lives.
- Acknowledge diversity.
- Involve pupils as active participants.
- Match the needs of pupils.
- Foster a sense of community.

They will be spiritual:

- Time for stillness and reflection.
- A special time – conducive to worship.
- Children will feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Include a variety of words, music and images.
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities.
- Provide opportunity for children to take an active part in worship.

Prayer and Liturgy could be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain:

- Related to learning experiences across the curriculum.
- Related to pupils own life experiences.
- Celebrate educational achievements and talents.

How Prayer and Liturgy is organised.

In order to achieve a sense of belonging and a common ethos, we try to involve as many of our school community as possible. Teachers plan and enable Prayer and Liturgy to take place each day.

Occasions for worship include prayer times, assemblies, circle prayer, sharing assemblies, Masses both at Church and at school.

During our celebrations we try to:

- Make our Prayer and Liturgy appropriate for our children
- To include all who are attending by ensuring the possibility of conscious active participation of all present
- Encourage children to lead where appropriate
- To use a balance of quiet reflection, silent prayer, responses, prayer, music, songs, dance, drama, short address
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting

Prayer and Liturgy will always include the following 4 sections:

<i>Gathering together</i>	- circle time, to music, light a candle etc
<i>Listening</i>	- scripture
<i>Response</i>	- silent time to reflect on
<i>Going forth</i>	- singing/playing music, to enable the children to take the message with them

Times for Prayer and Liturgy

The Timing of the Act can be flexible and can be at any time of the day, so as to ensure it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

Formal

Whole school – Prayer and Liturgy takes place weekly in the School Hall delivered by Headteacher or Key Stage Lead. This will include themes linked to RED or OCme and See and themes across the liturgical calendar.

Informal

On the other days it is the teacher's responsibility to choose the timings of the worship.

- Prayerful images
- Appropriate music
- Suitable lighting
- Comfortable posture
- Atmosphere of peacefulness

Prayer Table – Each classroom has a designated area for prayer. The prayer table contains a cloth, a candle, a bible, a crucifix and a focus for that topic.

Focus for Prayer

A prayer table would contain a small selection of the following:

Candles	Candles remind us that Jesus is amongst us and is the Light of the World.
Bible	The word of God will be given prominence
Flowers/Plants	Greenery is a reminder of God's beautiful world
Sacred images	Crucifix, statue, pictures of Jesus and Mary
Interesting objects	A variety of stones or shells give a good focus for prayer
Meaningful pictures	Pictures or photographs appropriate to the Theme
Prayer/story/poetry books	Have one open that reflects the topic being studied

A Prayer and Liturgy calendar is being developed by the R.E. Coordinator to support staff.

Class-led assemblies

Using the RED and Come and See topics, each class leads an assembly through the academic year. The R.E.co-ordinator ensures each class knows which topic/theme they will lead..

The assemblies:

- Develop a sense of purpose, sharing with a wider audience;
- Bring RE together – other year groups gain a new understanding of the topic;
- Celebrate and develop gifts – public speaking, acting, singing, etc;
- Welcome family/wider community, helping our commitment to community _ cohesion.

We endeavour to include our Parish Priest, Father Sean, in special Masses/liturgies during the year. On these occasions, school, families and parishioners come together.

The R.E. co-ordinator usually prepares these celebrations in consultation with the Headteacher and priest.

Examples of liturgies:

Beginning of school year

Harvest Festival

Advent

Reflections during Holy

Week Leavers' Mass

Throughout the year special celebrations are held which encourage the children to share and quietly reflect on important events in the Church's year such as the Nativity, an Advent service, a Palm Sunday celebration or The Stations of the Cross.

Stay and Pray

The school community is invited to year group or class Stay and Pray events. They take place at the end of every topic. They take place in a variety of places including the classroom, hall, playground etc. Governors, parents and family members are encouraged to join in these pray times to enrich their own prayer and spirituality.

Adult Liturgy

Staff participate in "Come and See for Yourself," prayer and reflection time. This takes place at the beginning of each Come and See Topic, generally at the start of key stage planning meetings. Staff leave their thoughts and reflections as a display for the children to gather around during each topic.

Monitoring Prayer and Liturgy

The Headteacher and R.E. Co-ordinator are responsible for the monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school. Staff may be encouraged to share good practice with colleagues. Oral feedback is given to all teachers for professional development, highlighting strengths and areas to develop.

Conclusion.

The experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Such values will be explored, celebrated and reflected upon in Prayer and Liturgy in a manner that compliments the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos in St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School.

POLCY AMENDED AND UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2024

