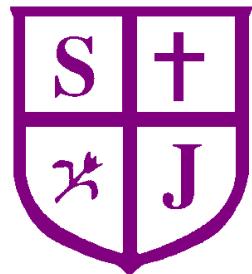


St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy



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.
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How Prayer and Liturgy is organised

Worship is a valued and central part of daily life in our school, supporting the spiritual development and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. It reflects our Christian vision and values, offering opportunities for the whole school community to gather, reflect, and respond.

Worship takes place every day. Each Monday, Key Stage worship is held to introduce the weekly Christian theme, rooted in biblical teaching and the school's vision. From Tuesday to Friday,

worship continues within individual classes, enabling children to explore the theme more deeply in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

Worship is organised into two groups—Early Years & Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2—ensuring that content, language, and activities meet the developmental needs of all pupils. Staff plan, prepare, and lead worship on a rotational cycle so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the worship life of the school and to model the school's values in practice.

Pupils are encouraged to take an active and meaningful role in worship. This includes helping to prepare the worship table, selecting music, lighting candles, leading prayers, sharing reflections, and participating in spoken responses. Through this involvement, children grow in confidence, develop leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of worship and its purpose.

Our worship aims to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. All pupils and staff are welcomed to participate in ways that are comfortable for them, regardless of background or belief. Through Worship, we seek to create a nurturing environment in which all members of the school community can explore spirituality, reflect on values, and consider the big questions of life.

Each Key Stage celebrates Christmas and Easter with a special assembly or production with relevant religious theme which varies in format.

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:

Gathering together: silence, circle time, to music, light a candle etc

Listening: scripture

Response: silent time to reflect on

Going forth: 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 all staff on a rotational cycle. There is always a link to the weekly Gospel, this may also include themes linked to RED or Come and See and themes across the liturgical calendar.

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

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

These include:

Welcome Mass

Advent services of Reconciliation

Class Masses
Harvest Celebration
Advent Mass
Epiphany Mass
Lenten services of Reconciliation
Reflections during Holy week
Celebration Mass for the feast of St Joseph the Worker
Celebration Mass for First Holy Communion
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.

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 experiences of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting the spiritual development of every child. These experiences provide opportunities for reflection, deepening faith, and fostering a sense of connection with God, others and the wider world. Such values will be intentionally explored, celebrated and reflected upon through Prayer and Liturgy, allowing pupils to engage meaningfully with their spiritual journey. This will be carried out in a manner that complements the way these values are taught across the curriculum and lived out in daily school life, ensuring consistency between classroom learning and practice. In this way, Prayer and Liturgy will reflect and reinforce the distinctive Catholic ethos of St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, nurturing a strong sense of community, faith and belonging for all.

POLICY AMENDED AND UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2025