

Ursuline Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Chair of Governors	Paul Vine
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*'Following in Jesus' footsteps we love, learn and
grow together'*

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.

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

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that Prayer and liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunities 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
- To take time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;

- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils 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.

Prayer and liturgy in our school will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Recorded
- Monitored
- Evaluated

Organisation

The act of prayer and liturgy is intended to be appropriate for all pupils attending Ursuline.

The timing of this is specific to each class and age group. Generally it is recommended that children spend at least one minute for each year of their life engaging in a form of prayer and liturgy each day.

Normally the collective act of worship will take place on the school premises (indoors or outdoors), but there will be occasions when the school community will gather in church for special celebrations or on dedicated off-site retreat days and residential.

There will be at least one Key Stage act of prayer and liturgy per week. Prayer and liturgy on other days of the week are usually class based. Celebration Assembly takes place once per week for children in Reception, Key Stages One and Two and contains worship in the form of prayers and hymns.

Resources for Worship

Each classroom has its own focus area with a small selection of resources. Published resources for worship are kept in the store cupboard. There are a selection of books and resources for focus tables. These resources are regularly updated.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion. 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 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach.

The Co-ordinator for Prayer and liturgy

The Co-ordinators for Prayer and liturgy are the RE Team.

Record of Prayer and liturgy

A record of larger group prayer and liturgy is kept on the school ICT network (Google drive – RE – Prayer and liturgy). Staff plan and record the content of each assembly in these documents. The purpose of this is:

- To ensure that a variety of themes are explored throughout the year
- To avoid repetition
- To assist in monitoring of prayer and liturgy
- To record evidence of prayer and liturgy

Monitoring of Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy will be monitored regularly on a rota basis from Reception to Year Six, by the RE Team, according to the RE monitoring schedule. Feedback is shared with staff individually. Any trends strengths and areas for development are shared with staff at RE staff meetings.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and liturgy Co-ordinators and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play an important role.