



***Our Lady and St Philomena's Catholic Primary School
Prayer Liturgy Policy***

Approved by:	Governing Body
Last reviewed:	September 2024
Next review due by:	September 2025

Mission Statement

Our Lady and St Philomena's is a Catholic Community working in partnership with parents / carers to nurture and educate the whole person, in the way of Christ, enabling all to know their worth and reach their potential.

Nature of Worship

"Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power." (Circular 1/94) Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God.

Prayer Liturgy celebrates the presence of God in our daily lives and community. We give thanks and praise to God. It is our response to God's love and to the love of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We have daily act of worship for all pupils in Our Lady and St Philomena's School. Our worship can take place at different times in the day, in a variety of contexts.

At Our Lady and St Philomena's we seek to be inclusive of everybody however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from Prayer Liturgy if they wish. Suitable supervision is provided for such children but no additional work is set for them in this time.

Prayer Liturgy in Our School

Prayer Liturgy provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

Prayer Liturgy can be led by pupils, staff or visitors. It can be offered for a class, a year group, Key Stage or whole school.

Worship is seen as central to the life of the school and our response to God's word.

Prayer Liturgy takes account of all who share in it, these include

- Our community in Church
- Those who experience school as their only experience of Church
- Those from other faith traditions

It is an experience which all can learn and develop from each other. We need to provide time, space and the correct environment for reflection and meditation to take place. The Quiet Room at our school is a good resource for Prayer Liturgy.

Aims of Prayer Liturgy



- To consider the mystery of God.
- To look at spiritual and moral issues as they arise.
- To celebrate achievements in our daily lives.
- To experience awe and wonder.
- To enrich the religious experience of our children and staff.
- To encourage full participation.
- To aim to have shared values and attitudes.
- To build a firm foundation for the experience of Liturgy. (both formal & informal)
- To provide opportunity for everyone to be still and quiet.
- To give experience of a variety of forms of prayer.
- To reflect on our belonging and community spirit.
- To address issues that arise.

Principles of Prayer Liturgy

Experiences of Prayer Liturgy must respect the freedom learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship. All worship will reflect the Catholic life character and nature of our school. We will Honour God.

Prayer Liturgy will include a range of experiences and in different settings. (Prayer/Reflection area, hall, classroom, Church and outdoor Prayer areas)

Prayer Liturgy will last for one minute per year of a Child's life.

Planning/ Content of Prayer Liturgy

When planning Prayer Liturgy we plan with reference to the Church's Seasons, "To know you more clearly", 'Come and See' and any appropriate Church and Parish dates.

It will need to be flexible to take account of changing situations and community issues that arise. Scripture is at the forefront of all Prayer & Liturgy within our school.

Please ensure that all steps are taken with regard to Health & Safety.
e.g. using candles, use of electrical equipment etc.

The context of Prayer Liturgy should be varied and this should be reflected in planning. However, the scripture of all Prayer Liturgy is as follows: Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth. It is recognised that teachers may respond to local events as they arise and are flexible to accommodate this. Prayer Liturgy is planned by both staff and children, according to the context. As children progress through school, they are encouraged and supported in planning their own Prayer Liturgy so that they are able to do so independently by the time they reach Upper Key Stage 2. Upper Key Stage 2 classes have a 'Prayer Leader' who is responsible for setting up places of worship and a 'Prayer Reader' who delivers the Word, reading from the Bible. These roles change regularly to allow all children to develop their spirituality.

Planning for Prayer Liturgy needs to ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length of time and resources to be used are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the pupils.

Prayer Liturgy must ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.



The atmosphere for Prayer Liturgy must be right. It must take place in an orderly atmosphere with a sense of occasion, including the entrance and exit. The use of artefacts, candles, symbols, lighting and Music should enhance the focus for Prayer Liturgy.

Recording

We have evidence from our displays, photographs, videos, pupil contributions, prayers in classes of Prayer Liturgy that takes place in school.

We have a Planner that includes dates and themes of whole school Worship.

Evaluation

This is undertaken by staff and pupils on a regular basis, with reference to the variety of Prayer Liturgy experiences possible.

Resources

Resources, such as Bibles, candles, flowers, pebbles etc are located in every classroom, for easy access and use by all staff.

A collection of Psalms and Prayers are available on the Teachers' Drive.
Miss Watt will also offer advice on appropriate music.

Any resources needed are addressed and purchased when appropriate.

Sacramental Preparation

Year 4 children are supported in their preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Mass/ Eucharist

Class Masses take place in the parish church, which our Parishioners attend. Church Masses in Church highlight an occasion or a relevant topic. These celebrations take place whenever it is age appropriate for children to fully participate. This is from Year 1 upwards but is always reviewed to ensure we are providing the best opportunities for our children.

We use various books as reference when planning Masses and Father Mark also provides guidance in the preparation of these celebrations.

Monitoring and review

The R.E. Co-ordinator monitors the provision for RE and provides a termly Co-ordinator Report to the Headteacher. The Headteacher, in turn, reports to the Governing Body on the effectiveness of R.E Education and Prayer Liturgy. This is reviewed every year.

At Our Lady and St Philomena's we also have a Governor for Religious Education.