



Our Lady of Lourdes  
Catholic Primary School

## **PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Parish School of Our Lady of Lourdes  
welcomes everyone in the community,  
to share with us the joys of our Catholic Faith.  
We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus,  
helping one another to become the people  
God has created us to be.

### **Commitment to equality:**

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

Last reviewed September 2023



‘Collective Worship’ has been kept as the headline judgement by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate but throughout the framework it is referred to as prayer and liturgy. This model policy addresses the shift in vocabulary and is an interim response to the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and liturgy 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 celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.’<sup>1</sup>

### **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily ‘act of worship’ offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between 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. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from ‘Collective Worship’. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to ‘timetabled slots’ but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

### **The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School**

Prayer and liturgy are an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy take 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in Our Lady of Lourdes aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

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

### Principles

All acts of prayer in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- 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.<sup>2</sup> Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

### Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and liturgy are planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations, where appropriate.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Staff also pray together on a regular basis, for example, at the start of meetings, at training days and on staff retreats.

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

The Timetable of Prayer and Liturgy, along with other relevant information can be found on our school website, via this link:

<https://www.ololschool.enfield.sch.uk/prayer-life-at-our-lady-of-lourdes/>

### **Leading Prayer and Liturgy**

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy, along with the Deputy Headteachers at given times. The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

### **Recording**

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy, e.g. pupil led worship planning forms
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc...

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated 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 Prayer and Liturgy.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

### **Resources**

Each class has access to religious artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set age appropriate Bibles.

Other resources include:

Posters, Candles, CAFOD materials, RE reference books on a variety of topics, various religious artefacts.

### **The learning environment**

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith are displayed in school and throughout its premises, they help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment.

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school reflect the liturgical season and reference RE teaching topics along with relevant vocabulary. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

## **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school Prayer and Liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to school guidance. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At Key Stage 1 Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- whole school, class and year group mass.

At Key Stage 2 Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- whole school, class and year group mass.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator 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 Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

#### Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

#### Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- 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 Diocesan Department for Education

#### Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- 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

### **Monitoring and Review**

Monitoring of teaching and learning with RE is the joint responsibility of the RE Coordinator and the Headteacher and is completed through monitoring medium term planning, lesson observation, and work scrutiny across the phases and throughout the school. Our attached adviser, who makes regular visits and reports back to the Headteacher, supports the school in this. The Headteacher regularly reports to the Governors on the religious life of the school.