



St Luke's Catholic Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy

2021-22

Mission Statement

As God's family we learn, love and laugh.
Together: Love one another, forgive one another
Work together, play together,
Worship together, be happy together.

Introduction

At St Luke's Catholic Primary School, Prayer and Liturgy is integral to our pupils' faith journey. Through prayer and liturgy, they develop a deepening relationship with Christ and in doing so, they develop their sense of self. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre. Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life. At St Luke's Catholic Primary School, we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen pupils' sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church. Children take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. We believe worship is a time to celebrate God's presence in our lives, allowing an opportunity for all to be joined in one with Him. In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, assemblies, meditation and liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the children to develop their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

February 2022

Review Date: February 2023

Shared with Staff: March 2022

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian 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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well established Safeguarding procedures.

The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or at Church.

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

We endorse the belief that 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 educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Prayer and Liturgy in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity 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 out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children 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 to age appropriately meet the needs of the children- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy at St. Luke's Catholic Primary School					
	Type	Involves	Frequency	Location	Led by
1	Gospel Assembly	KS1 and 2	Every Monday	Hall	SLT (RE Lead)
2	Morning Prayer	All Classes	Daily	Classroom	Teacher /Prayer Leaders
3	Angelus	All Classes	Daily – Close to Midday	Classroom	Teacher /Prayer Leaders
4	Grace Before and After Meals	All Classes	Daily	Classroom	Teacher /Prayer Leaders
5	Afternoon Prayer	All Classes	Daily	Classroom	Teacher /Prayer Leaders
6	Class Prayer and Liturgy	All Classes		Classroom	Children with teacher guidance
7	Special Masses School and Parish	All Classes	Timetabled through the liturgical Year e.g. Feast Days/ Holy Day of Obligation/ Start of School Year etc	Church and School	Parish Priest/ SLT/ RE Lead/Parishioners
8	Mass of Commission for MV's /CAFOD/Junior Leadership team	All Classes	Annually	Church	Parish Priest/ SLT/ RE Lead
9	Class Masses with Parishioners	All Classes	Timetabled – Reception summer term only	Church and School	Parish Priest/ SLT/ RE Lead
10	Reflection Liturgies – Quiet Prayer and meditation	All Classes	Advent and Lent	School	Parish Priest/ SLT/ RE Lead
11	Sacrament of Reconciliation	All Classes	Advent and Lent	School	Parish Priest/ SLT/ RE Lead
12	Stations of the Cross	All Classes	Annually Lent Towards Holy Week/ Holy Week	School	SLT/ RE Lead/ Pupils

Term	Virtues/Gospel Values	Days of Dedication and Wider Themes of Prayer and Liturgy
Autumn 1	Respect /Courtesy Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Start of School Year Education Sunday – Good Attendance and Punctuality – Value Education (2nd Sunday September) St Teresa of Calcutta (5th September) World Day of Prayer for Day of Creation – Environment- Harvest Fast Day Preparation (Last Sunday of September) St Francis of Assisi (4th October)
	Thankfulness Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Mental Health Day (10th October) Month of the Rosary (October) St John Henry Newman (9th October) Feast of St. Luke (18 th October) Black History Month (October)
Autumn 2	Hope Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	All Saints and All Souls – Beatitudes (1st and 2nd November) Remembrance Sunday (Closest to 11th November) Universal Children Day (20th November) St Andrew (30th November)
	Patience Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Advent – Getting Ready Human Rights Day – Migrants Day, Amnesty and Prisoners of Conscience (10th December) Gaudete Sunday (3rd Sunday of Advent)
Spring 1	Faith Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Epiphany – Gifts to God/ New Year’s Resolution (6th January) Baptism of the Lord (1st Sunday) World Peace Day (2nd Sunday) Conversion of St Paul (25th Jan)
	Simplicity Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Holocaust Memorial Day (27th Jan) St Josephine Bakhita – Abolition of Slavery (8th Feb) World Day of the Sick/ Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (11th Feb) World Epilepsy Day (14th February)

Spring 2	Charity Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Lent – Charity CAFOD Family Fast Day (Follows 1st Sunday of Lent) Lent – Taking Action St David (1st March) International Women’s Day (8th March)
	Forgiveness Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	St Patrick (17th March) International Day of Happiness (20th March) Lots of Socks Day – Down Syndrome Awareness (21st March) St Oscar Romero (24th March) Lent – Prayer and Moving to Holy Week
Summer 1	Perseverance and Resilience Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Season of Easter St George (23rd April) 3rd Sunday of Easter – The Road to Emmaus
	Kindness Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	4th Sunday of Easter – The Good Shepherd Month of Mary (May) Pentecost
Summer 2	Honesty Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	Trinity Sunday & Corpus Christi
	Service Faith, Service, Courage Justice, Hope, Love, Reconciliation Community	SS Peter and Paul (29th June) Celebrations of our achievements at the end of the school year Saying Goodbye

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to Liturgical year, 'The Way, The Truth & The Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- In consultation with our wider school community and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship in a meaningful way.
- Opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

Recording Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- 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.

Resources

Each class has an RE box with 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 of text books and age appropriate Bibles, including: • Posters • Candles • CAFOD materials • Graphic Bibles

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. At St. Luke's preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion takes place within school. During this time the children are actively encouraged to participate in the liturgy both within school and church.

Children are supported in their faith journey in an age appropriate way. The Way Truth and Life Scheme and a variety of other age appropriate resources are used to engage and support knowledge and understanding.

At Key Stage 1 Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- Short, simple liturgies including ritual
- 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 including ritual
- 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 RE Lead and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff, link governor, and governors annually.