

St George's Catholic School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum based in a Catholic Christian setting where we are led by the Spirit of Christ. We believe that, "Children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities."

Policy and Practice

Implementation and Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher, RE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff.

Last Reviewed: September 2023

Next Review date: September 2024

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and enriches the religious experience of pupils and staff. 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 George's we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church.

Aims:

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To participate in something special and separate from other school activities;
- To grow in Christian love through the teaching of the scriptures;
- To participate in the traditions of the Catholic Faith and grow in liturgical understanding;
- 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 participate and respond;
- To acknowledge and respect difference.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of prayer and liturgy for all pupils. The prayer and liturgy is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgies, although we would encourage participation by all.

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.

Prayer and Liturgy should:

- Be memorable and enjoyable;
- Be engaging and elicit response;
- Be well-resourced and planned;
- Be flexible and responsive to special occasions;
- Be related to age, ability and the background of others;
- Have a sense of occasion;
- Be inclusive (children and staff);
- Have spiritual content;
- Relate worship and prayer to aspects of our lives;

- Enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Teach children how to worship and lead worship.

Important elements of Prayer and Liturgies

- We gather: (we come together as part of God’s family and make everyone welcome) – consider music, resources, setting, seating arrangements
- We listen: (God speaks to us and we listen) – biblical reading, prayer, reflection
- We respond: (we respond to the Word of God) – ritual movement, actions to song, response to prayer
- Go forth: (we want to share the Good News) – sending out, something to hold onto for daily life

Organisation

Day	Prayer and Liturgy
Monday	Gospel Assembly
Tuesday	Class Liturgical Prayer
Wednesday	Class Assembly/Hymn Practice/Class Liturgical Prayer
Thursday	Key Stage Assembly
Friday	Celebration Assembly

Planning

Prayer and Liturgies are planned following a structure of significant dates and the wider curriculum and Gospel Values. Scripture will be the focus of most Prayer and Liturgies.

Prayer and Liturgies will be planned:

- 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 prayer and liturgies rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To enable the ‘Chaplaincy Team’ to advise and support the development of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgies are recorded:

- Through displays, collections of pupils contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- PowerPoint presentations
- On Liturgy rotas to keep note of themes, leaders 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.