

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury

Prayer and Liturgy policy



"Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together"

Rationale:

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers is an integral part of learning and teaching, should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and develop a mature spiritual life.'

(Marcus Stock (2012), *Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23.). This policy defines how this goal is achieved within St Joseph's Catholic Primary school and the benefits this has for children of faith and no faith.

Aims:

This policy recognises that the school is made up of children who are Catholic, from other Christian and religious denominations as well as those with no stated faith.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has a Christian Catholic foundation and as such along with meeting the specific needs of this foundation, aims to develop its [charism](#) through a set of shared values that are sympathetic to those of all and no faith.

Our shared values of:

- Love and kindness
- Peace
- Resilience
- Aspiration
- Curiosity
- Respect
- Serving and giving

Support the school's mission of "Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together."

Organisation:

The school's prayer life is seen as an opportunity to build community around our shared values. All within the school are seen as integral in this process either through the collective and shared distribution of reflective activities or through active participation in the activities themselves.

The development of the school's values is achieved in the following ways:

Whole school worship:

Formal worship happens on a daily basis as a whole school or within individual classes or groups. To ensure variety and enable both staff and pupil leadership, the following activities are routinely organised across the week.

| | Worship or chaplaincy activity: | Led by: | Activity organisation and purpose: |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|
| Monday | Whole school values | Head Teacher | Afternoon, Max: 25 minutes. <u>Purpose:</u> To engage with the Gospel and scripture. prepare pupils for the liturgy within mass celebrated within the parish church. To strengthen understanding of school values. |

Structure:

- Gather: Multi- media or song
- Word – linked to virtue and values theme (scripture and illustrative reflection or story).
- Response – reflection from pupils
- Mission – what is the challenge for the children at the end of the worship.

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| Tuesday | Gospel worship (10:10 or CAFOD children's liturgy. | Staff on a rotation | <p>Afternoon, Max: 25 minutes.</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To engage with the Gospel and scripture. prepare pupils for the liturgy within mass celebrated within the parish church. To strengthen understanding of school values.</p> <p><u>Structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather: Multi media of song• Word – linked to value and values theme (scripture and illustrative reflection or story). Drawn from the Liturgical framework defined by either 10:10 or Cafod children's liturgy.• Response – reflection and interpretation• Mission – what is the challenge for the children at the end of the worship. |
| Wednesday | Singing worship | Music leader | <p>Afternoon. Max: 25 minutes.</p> <p>Purpose: Celebration of the Gospel and scripture through song.</p> <p>Reconnect to Mission from virtues where appropriate.</p> <p>Mission led prayer to close</p> |
| | Choir | Music leader | <p>Lunch time. Open to any child in KS2</p> <p>Informal spiritual and contemporary songs.</p> |
| | Class worship planning (lunch time) | Prayer and Liturgy Leader and class chaplains on rotation | <p>12:05 Using "Celebration of the word" (Clifton Diocese) planning resource, class chaplains to plan their worship activity.</p> |
| Thursday | Class worship | Led by class chaplains on rotation | <p>Afternoon. Max: 25 minutes.</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To engage with the Gospel and scripture linked to RE themes and the school's current virtues focus. To strengthen understanding of school values.</p> <p><u>Structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather: Multi media of song• Word – Draw from the Liturgical Year planning resources in 10:10 or Children's Liturgy.• Response – reflection and prayer. |

- Mission – The challenge for the children at the end of the worship.

Note:

- Class worship for Forest School groups to be undertaken on the land and as part of the Forest School session. This can provide a real opportunity for appreciation of God's world and reflection on the wonder of creation.
- Chaplains from Year 5 and 6 to support the Chaplains in Year 1,2 and 3 lead their class worship

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| Friday | Celebration worship | Headteacher, teachers and school ambassadors | <p>Afternoon. Max 30 minutes</p> <p>Purpose: To re-engage with the virtue for the week. To celebrate children's achievements. To give thanks through kind words, certificates and awards.</p> <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection at the end of the week. • How have the children lived out the school virtues? What are they thankful for? • Revisit the week's prayer from the start of the week. |
| | Informal refecton and meditation (children attending could think up a name) | Prayer and Liturgy Leader of Prayer and Liturgy TA | <p>Lunch time. Organised as 2 x 20 minutes sessions.</p> <p>Participation by choice.</p> <p>Using "Celebration of the word" planning resource, all children are invited to join a lunch time activity aimed at promoting the "response" element of the class worship (prayers, reflections, art / craft).</p> <p>This is part of SR's MDSA role and like the Sports Coach is a directed activity (potentially outside in the playground shelter).</p> |

Other activities that help us to develop our charism are:

Daily Prayer:

Daily prayer is seen as an integral activity to bring classes together to offer thanks and seek guidance. Daily prayer happens at the start of the day, before lunch and at the end of the day. Children are invited to join in with these moments or respectfully use this time for quiet contemplation or reflection.

Prayers are a mix of whole school prayers known by all and more spontaneous conversations with God.

Informal and spontaneous activities:

Refection, meditation and pupil wellbeing activities are undertaken as ad-hoc lunch or playtime activities. These are Participation by choice. Open invitation to participate in spiritually linked community or painting and art projects led by school leaders.

Participation in parish Masses:

The school routinely joins the parish of St Aldhelm's Church for Mass. As a minimum this is once a term as a whole school and additionally for classes across the year.

The level of participation in masses ranges from

- Predominantly school led where the school's chaplains take specific roles and responsibilities to support the parish priest in delivering the mass to the parish. In this instance the school would provide readers,

musicians to lead celebration of the word through song, Prayers of the Faithful, altar servers and children to contribute to the preparation of the sacrament

- Simple attendance where classes join the parish in the celebration of the word. Participation is minimum but may for example include providing Prayers of the Faithful or supporting the Mass with readings

School behaviour principles – values in action

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's behaviour principles are based around the school's mission to "walk in the footsteps of Jesus." These principles are agreed each year by the school's stewards who work with class councils to renew and agree any appropriate amendments.

These principles also underpin the school's Anti Bullying Statement and how staff and pupils can expect to be treated by each other.

Statement of requirement:

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (*The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement*, December 2020; *Model Articles for Catholic Academies*, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

Leadership

Headteacher:

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- They work in partnership with the leader for prayer and liturgy.
- Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to.
- There are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

Prayer and Liturgy Leader:

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- There is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments.
- There is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- Pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation.
- Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils.
- Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required.
- Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities.
- Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies.
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school.
- There is collaboration with local clergy and parish.
- Liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

School Chaplains:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School pupil leadership is based on the principle that any pupil leader can be a Chaplain with a clearly defined purpose. To this end, school chaplains are divided into two categories of leader. These are:

- Prayer Leaders: These pupils put themselves forward to support the prayer life of the school and work alongside class teachers and school leaders to lead school worship, class worship and masses.
- School Stewards: These pupils are responsible for reflecting pupil voice and for living out the school's mission linked to Catholic Social Teaching and school values. Our School Stewards are like a more traditional School Council and they work alongside Class Councils, their teachers to organise and define pupil activity across the year. School Stewards are selected through a democratic process that supports children's understanding of democracy and elements of British Values. School stewards also strive to live the school values in all they say and do.

In addition, there are also:

- School Ambassadors: There are two school ambassadors who are drawn from the Year 6 cohort. School Ambassadors volunteer for this position and are democratically elected by the pupil and staff body. School Ambassadors are the face of the school and agree to uphold the school virtues in all that they say and do. School Ambassadors are an important part of celebration and help lead the school's weekly worship along with other ongoing representative responsibilities. The School Ambassadors also chair and lead the school steward team.

Governors:

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*.
- There is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator).
- The prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders.
- There is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders through:

- Pupils: Weekly ongoing evaluations undertaken at each worship and reviewed on a termly basis by school leaders. Ad-hoc views are also sought based on anecdotal responses for pupils following worship provision.
- Staff: Termly basis as part of the school's self-evaluation process
- Clergy: Annually and as part of the school's annual review.
- Governors: Termly and ongoing evaluation (three times / year) as part of ongoing monitoring and feedback to the full governing body.
- Parents: Annually as part of the school's annual review.

Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

