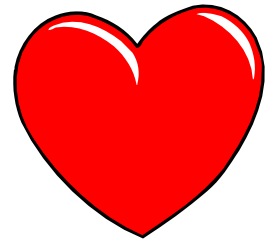




Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Our Mission Statement :

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)

Agreed by Governors on: 15 January 2025

Signed

Chair of Governors

To be reviewed : January 2026

Safeguarding Statement :

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our School Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to developing independent, successful and confident children who have high aspirations, who gain a sense of achievement and leave our school with a wealth of happy memories.

Our Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

Introduction to Prayer and Liturgy in our Catholic School

Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Prayer and Liturgy should strengthen this eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Prayer and Liturgy is this community's response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This policy is to support the liturgical life of the school by providing guidelines for various acts of worship from the individual, to class prayer times, to Masses with the parish and the wider community.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of our daily school life and fulfils all legal requirements. We believe that prayer and liturgy:

- provides a quality experience and is fundamental to the life of the school.
- provides the opportunity for pupils to pray and give glory to God.
- allows time to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore beliefs.
- encourages participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of liturgy or through listening to and joining in the liturgy offered.
- develops community spirit, promotes a common ethos and shared values, and reinforces positive attitudes.
- experiences a sense of belonging and develops community spirit through planned opportunities throughout the year.
- gives pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age.
- develops children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead prayer.

Implementation

All acts of prayer and liturgy should:

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Prayer and liturgy in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

Listen - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), sharing the word, time to reflect on suitable prayers, including the four main types of prayer i.e Thanks / Asking / Praise / Sorry

Respond - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (prayers and songs, gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

Go forth- the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy, a mission that they can take into their daily lives.

Planning

When planning prayer and liturgy, it should reflect the theme or liturgical season of the church where appropriate. (For example, omitting Alleluia during a Lent worship, or have a lively upbeat service for a reconciliation service that has a reflective undertone.)

Allow the children to feel differences in the mood of the liturgical calendar and to experience different prayer and liturgy to further their spiritual self. As the children grow in age and confidence, they can take a more active part in the planning of liturgy.

Children should be encouraged to prepare and lead the prayer service as appropriate to their age.

Throughout Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children are encouraged to develop their individual prayer life through practice and participation in morning, before and after lunch, and home time prayers.

Children are taught to plan Prayer and Liturgy at an age-appropriate level, gradually becoming more independent as they move through the school. The expectations for child led prayer and liturgy are given in Appendix A.

Our Chaplaincy Team takes a leading role in the prayer life of the school e.g. leading prayer during key parts of the year (Advent, Lent).

Celebration of the Eucharist

As the Mass is the centre of the liturgical worship in the Catholic Church, it has an established place in the life of the school. A timetable for each term is planned by the Headteacher and Parish Priest to include commitment/enrolment Masses and parish links. The children are involved in the planning and the celebration of Mass and family and friends are invited to attend.

The whole school regularly attends Mass in church. The children lead the welcome, the readings, bidding prayers and offertory. Each class leads Mass in our parish church on a rolling programme throughout the year. We firmly believe in the importance of celebrating the Mass by:

- Encouraging all our school members to go to Mass on a weekly basis.
- Providing opportunities for School, parish and home Masses throughout the academic year.
- Celebrating Holy Mass on Feast Days and Holy days of Obligation.
- Having Mass celebrated in school or on the grounds of the school.
- Celebrating Masses as part of the sacramental programme.
- Celebrating Mass at the key times of the school year e.g. blessing of the school year and a leavers' Mass for Year 6.
- By teaching the structure of the Mass to the children
- By basing all our assemblies, meetings and gatherings on the four part model of the Mass.

Assemblies

Monday morning whole school mission assembly is usually liturgical in nature and is taken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT.

Special Liturgical celebrations

Foundation Stage & KS1 perform a Christmas play. This reflects the story of the Nativity. Parents, families and parishioners are invited.

Key stage 2 pupils are involved in the presentation of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Year 4 lead the Easter Reflection. It is a deeply moving and spiritual experience for all and is used as a teaching tool during Holy Week.

The Chaplaincy Team lead the May Procession.

Right of Withdrawal:

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons and from prayer and liturgy. Alternative provision will be made. However, parents and prospective parents need to be aware that Religious Education impacts on the rest of the curriculum and daily life within the school. Therefore, 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 Role of the Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy:

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:-

- Formulating a written policy;
- Ensuring that the development of prayer and liturgy is included in the RE development plan;
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family 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 Catholic teachings;
- Organising themes for liturgy;
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community via the school website
- Parish priest
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.



OLA Child-Led Prayer and Liturgy

Class prayer times to take place weekly.

Each half term the class teacher will model planning and delivering an age-appropriate prayer time in order to introduce a new element to the children. The children will then take a lead (in groups) for subsequent weeks.

Children will learn how to choose a theme and lead a Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth format, however, creativity with their approach is encouraged, with the ultimate ambition that children are all given the opportunity to develop their relationship with God.

Teachers and children will be supported with planning varied and creative class prayer by using the **Let Us Pray 2Gether** resource.

These expectations are progressive: each year group will build upon the knowledge that has gone before until children are confident to fully lead prayer and liturgy for their peers.

EYFS	Children will choose the colour of cloth to match the season. Children will choose from a selection of items (naming the item) which are appropriate to the season and place them on the prayer focus. Children will be encouraged to say why they have chosen an item. The children will learn Come and Join the Circle, Gather Gather and Share the Light and choose which one to use when gathering together.
Year 1	Children will choose from a small selection of songs linked to the theme to sing during Prayer and Liturgy. Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will choose from 3 options, how to respond to the liturgy.
Year 2	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will choose from 3 readings linked to the theme. Children will read the reading or present using drama. Children will choose from 3 options, how to call their classmates to action through the Mission.
Year 3	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will use the Word Cards to choose from up to 5 readings linked to the theme. Children will choose ideas from up to 5 Gather, Word, Respond and Mission cards for their Prayer and Liturgy.
Year 4	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will use the Word Cards to choose an appropriate reading linked to their chosen theme. Children will choose ideas from the full range of Gather, Word, Respond and Mission cards for their Prayer and Liturgy.
Year 5	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children to select from the See, Hear, Think, Do cards to link to their chosen theme and reading. Children to decide which part of the liturgy they would fit.
Year 6	Children to select their own theme and scripture reading (Let Us Pray 2Gether, Gold and Silver Word Cards).