



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Prayer Policy

Agreed by the Governing Body on	Summer 2019
Review Date	Summer 2021
Review Schedule	Biennial
Person(s) Responsible	Religious Education Leader and Provisions and Achievement Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

We live, love and learn through Jesus.

PRAYER

Prayer is an integral part of school life at St Joseph's, and is not separated from the rest of school life; therefore children who belong to the school will share in the prayer life of the school. Prayer is at the heart of our Mission Statement and plays a central role in expressing and fostering the faith. Children have a natural aptitude for prayer and are open to God. They respond in many ways to the world around them and their school life is full of endless exploration and discovery.

Teachers must create an environment where these responses are developed as the beginnings of prayer. Each classroom has a special and visible prayer space which either reflects the current topic or the liturgical season. These spaces are to support children in their communication with God. These should contain a bible, crucifix, liturgical cloth for the appropriate season, and other artefacts which are a stimulus or focus for prayer.

Children are encouraged to discover and use a variety of forms of prayers, formal and informal, private and communal. Prayer should take place in an atmosphere which reflects respect for God and each other.

The RE scheme of work provides many opportunities for prayer and contains objectives associated with the teaching of prayer. At all stages the children are taught the meaning of the traditional prayers they learn. They learn that prayer is communication with God.

There are many ways in school that we pray together including:

- The use of our class and communal prayer areas
- Parent Prayer Groups
- Friday Family Prayers
- Prayer bags used by children in school and to go home to parents and families
- Prayer partners within other classes, especially Year 3 and Year 6 for Sacramental preparation
- RE focus in after school clubs. e.g Art club, choir.
- Daily prayer intentions in every class for different pupils and members of their families.
- Daily Examen and Meditation using TenTen and Christian Meditation resources

WORDS FOR PRAYER

Children are taught that prayer can be an everyday way of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry. Children are taught to use prayer to ask for God's help in times of difficulty e.g. if somebody is sick or dying.

Over time, children learn formal prayers. Every class uses a book of age appropriate prayers agreed by the Governing Body. These are kept in the classroom's prayer space. Prayers are learnt by:

- Children hearing and joining in with them
- Singing them
- Through topics linked to particular prayers

PRAYER EXPERIENCES

The forms and styles of prayer that children experience include:

- Praying the psalms "I thank you for the wonder of my being." (Psalm 139)
- Traditional Prayers e.g. Hail Mary
- Repetitive prayer phrases
- Scripture – reflections on this
- Bodily prayer – genuflecting
- Prayer of the heart – stillness "Be still and know that I am God."
- Contemplation
- Gestures e.g. the sign of the cross and the sign of peace
- Hymns, both modern and traditional
- Music – listening to quiet reflective music or other
- Litanies – e.g. Thanks be to God
- Processions – Gospel processions with sung acclamation
- Prayer services and liturgies
- Celebrations – gathering in prayer, song, scripture, sharing food and celebrating all aspects of life
- Use of visuals – art, banners, displays

INTRODUCTION OF PRAYER

Knowing prayers by heart is a gift for life. Those prayers marked * are ones that children are able to say from memory

Aged 3-5

- Sign of the cross *
- Hail Mary
- Our Father
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Simple responses at Mass
- Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)
- Simple litanies of thanks and praise
- Prayerful reflection on the day
- Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath
- Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Aged 5-7 All those listed above, and:

- Sign of the cross *
- Hail Mary*
- Our Father*
- Glory be to the Father*
- Morning Offering*
- Grace at Meals*
- Act of Sorrow
- Mass responses*

Age 7-11 All those listed above, and:

- I confess*
- Angelus – said by KS2 before lunch at 12 noon.
- Eternal rest*
- Act of contrition*
- The mysteries of the Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Prayers at Mass:
 - Penitential Rite
 - Glory to God (Gloria)
 - Offertory prayers
 - Lamb of God
 - Holy holy, holy*
- Some simple phrases from the psalms