



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary
School
Malvern**

**Prayer and
Liturgy
Policy**

Mission Statement

“Following in the footsteps of Jesus, together we love, live and learn”

St Josephs is a caring community, a family growing in faith and belief with a love of learning.

Our vision is to:

Create a safe and caring learning environment with positive relationships and high expectations, where our uniqueness is respected and celebrated and where we develop skills and confidence for an ever-changing world.

Our mission statement reflects an awareness that every child is a unique individual, created in the image and likeness of GOD. Our job is to nurture every child and encourage them to use their gifts and talents to the full and to celebrate the diversity that this brings to our school. This awareness extends across the whole curriculum and informs everything that we do in the name of the school.

St Joseph's is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centred curriculum, which develops independent learning.

Aims:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.
- Through WITNESS, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace

Introduction:

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Place of Collective Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Our School:

We endorse the belief that Collective 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

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily, in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer
- Song
- Listening to music

Prayer will not be confined to an act of Liturgy. Prayer in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Prayer and Liturgy:

We believe that Collective 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time 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 personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Prayer and Liturgy is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole school assembly based on Gospel readings, liturgical year and school themes

Tuesday Pupil led prayer

Wednesday – Teacher led whole school collective worship

Thursday – Class collective prayer

Friday – Class Mass / whole school Mass in the morning on a rota basis

Whole School assembly led by the Head teacher or Assistant Head including school news and attendance awards. (Gifts of God assembly)

Planning:

Collective Prayer and Liturgy in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Wednesday word, the catholic child profile virtues, significant dates and the curriculum.

- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Collective Prayer and Liturgy. These are shared with the staff by the RE Coordinator. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning. Amongst these are: catholicassemblies.org, Ten ten online resources, the Father Hudsons website and Cafod.

Eucharist:

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Prayer and Liturgy strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations can take the following forms:

- Whole school Liturgies
- Class Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time.

Children will be encouraged to participate in special Sunday Masses throughout the year. Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3 and confirmation in Year 6. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Fr Naz for these children to participate in.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors and will be reviewed September 2024