



Prayer and Worship Policy

*We show our love for Jesus in all we do and say.
Celebrate our gifts and our talents
As we enjoy learning and playing together.
We try to follow the example of St Patrick within our school
Community.*

**Policy reviewed: Autumn 2023
Next Policy review due: Autumn 2024**

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Prayer and Worship Policy

"If we gather as we ought - singing together, being silent together, responding together - we will be a community praying, and know that we are such." (Cardinal Bernardin, *Guide to the Assembly*, page 10)

"Every Catholic and religiously sponsored school should have a vibrant worship life, with ample opportunities for student liturgies, time of prayer and reflection and be suffused with religious symbols that nurture the faith identity of students"

Thomas Groome

Aims:

To contribute to pupils' faith and spiritual development so they can:

- Pray and worship as a Catholic Community; in class, as a whole school in assemblies, and as part of the weekly Mass at Corpus Christi Church.
- Understand the importance of prayer and worship in daily living and how it helps us to grow in our relationships with God and with others.
- Experience prayer and worship in a way that makes sense to them and helps them to develop as responsible Catholics so as to value people of all faiths and communities.
- Recognise a sense of the sacred and holy.
- Have opportunities for worship, and to use prayer and worship as a form of celebration.
- Appreciate the distinctive nature of the celebration of the Mass as central the life of the Christian community and become aware of all forms of prayer and worship.

To contribute to pupil's moral development by encouraging and providing opportunities to:

- Reflect on moral and social issues.
- Become more aware of and respect the nature and needs of others.
- Develop inclusive attitudes of tolerance and acceptance of difference.

To celebrate and engage with the life of St. Patrick's school by:

- Celebrating work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum.
- Contributing to the school community, and place of school community in the wider community.
- Developing and reflecting on the values of the school.
- Providing opportunities for Liturgical Prefects to lead and support worship.
- Sharing the achievements of members of the school community.

- Celebrating our links with other schools locally and across the world.

To develop an awareness of pupils' relationship to the wider world by:

- Reflecting on the impact of significant world events.
- To celebrate and give thanks for God's world.

To explore and share the beliefs of others by providing opportunities to:

- Listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance.
- Providing appropriate opportunities to have dialogue with and about other faiths.
- Develop an awareness of how other faiths worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	Whole School Gospel Assembly (Wednesday Word resources) - led by Head Teacher of Deputy
Tuesday	Class based collective worship, liturgy and prayer - TenTen resources - led by class teacher and pupils
Wednesday	Whole School Assembly - TenTen assembly led by teachers (rota)
Thursday	Class based collective worship, liturgy and prayer - TenTen resources - led by class teacher and pupils
Friday	Whole School Reflection Assembly (revisiting Wednesday Word) followed by Celebration of work (parents attend)

Collective Worship Resources:

In order to strengthen the quality of provision of prayer, liturgy and collective worship across the school, we have purchased all resources available from TenTen.

Collective Worship, Prayer and Liturgy:

- Parents and carers are welcomed in to our whole school assemblies and year group liturgies.
- Our Monday assembly begins with a reflection on the previous Sunday's Gospel - using the Wednesday Word resources. It also includes a question for the children to ponder and respond to in their own way. (board in hall)
- The Wednesday assembly is led by two teachers, supported by the Year 6 School Chaplains. The TenTen collective worship resources are used to lead the assembly.

- The Friday reflection assembly, refocuses on the message from the Gospel shared on Monday and the responses from the children. We then give thanks for the week and celebrate the children who have used their skills and talents well.
- Throughout the year there are a number of assemblies that are led by each year group, to which the parents and carers are invited.
- Whole school Masses are celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast Days and Celebration. E.g. Start of the Year Mass, Celebration for Year 6 Leavers
- Seasonal celebrations and school events are also held in Church.
- All Year groups attend Mass with the Parish regularly, there is a weekly rota for each Year group; our younger children attend a special liturgy after Mass, led by the Pastoral Lead of the Parish.

We have expectations of what Collective worship should look like in class:

Expectations: candle, prayer table, music, scripture in place.

1. All children should be sitting in silence / finding their quiet place, calming music on - Class chaplains - to bring items from RE table to prayer table for focus of lesson.
2. Lesson begins with the sign of the cross

Left hand on their heart - right hand makes sign of the cross - touch head (God is the father), touch heart (Jesus is the Son), touch your left shoulder then right (The Holy Spirit is all around)

Prayer:

- Prayer is woven into the daily life of our school through Collective worship and within our school liturgy assemblies and faith celebrations. Prayer is planned for but can also happen at any point in the school day. There is a strong pupil involvement in the preparation and presentation of prayer.
- Classes have a specific RE / Prayer areas and display as appropriate to the liturgical calendar or RE topics
- All Governing Body meetings and staff meetings begin with a shared prayer.
- There is a table in the hall where children can write and offer prayers; this is alongside the reflective question for children to ponder and respond to
- Children are encouraged to share music and hymns as part of our shared prayer life in school

At the beginning and end of RE lessons, there is time for prayer and reflection.

From "To know you more clearly", this prayer is to be said by the teacher at the beginning of every lesson

Dear Lord,

Please open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to hear your message and take it out in to the world.

Amen

The prayer for the end of the lesson can be found in teacher notes of the RE programme "Come and See", the same prayer and reflection should be said at the end of each lesson (of that topic) and end with a reflection/challenge - *how they can take the learning out in to the world - as Stewards of God's Word.*

We take the themes of our assemblies from the Catholic faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Liturgical year. We follow the "Come and See" Programme for Religious education for Years 1 to 6 and our displays and themes of assembly follow this programme. Our EYFS pupils use the RED, To Know You More Clearly. (September 2023).

Teaching and Learning:

Worship also contributes to the general development of pupils. Opportunities will be provided for pupils to develop leadership skills, performance skills, singing ability, speaking in groups and in front of others, and to participate in group preparation and presentation. It is always appropriate to give special support to children especially in preparation so that they may gain confidence and gain a sense of personal satisfaction. Keeping collective worship simple to promote dignity and respect can enhance the celebration and enable all present to engage and feel involved. Prayers at any time are to be welcomed and valued: particularly if initiated by a child; as it can initiate a shared feeling of pride or shared sadness.

Appendix - School Prayers

Morning Prayer

O my God you love me
You're with me night and day
I want to love you always
In all I do and say
I'll try to please you Father
Bless me through the day.
Amen

Junior Dinner Prayer

Dear Lord,
Today as we are gathered here,
we thank you for the food
that has been prepared for us
and we ask for your blessing as we eat it.
Let us not forget the starving
people around the world.
May you always be with us
and guide us through the day.
Amen

Infant Dinner Prayer

Bless us O God as we sit together
Bless the food we eat today
Bless the hands that make the food
Bless us O God
Amen

Evening Prayer

God our Father we come to say
Thank you for your love today
Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light.
Amen

School Prayer

This is our school,
May we all live happily together.
May our school be full of joy,
May love dwell here amongst us every day.
Love of one another,
Love of all people everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Let us remember,
That as many hands can build a house
So every child can make this school
A lovely place.
Amen

Staff Prayer

As we come together,
With friendship, understanding, sensitivity and good humour.
We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our undertakings
For the good of the children and all those in our care.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.
Amen