Prayer and Liturgy Policy

"Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matthew 28:19-20)

"Sharing Our Faith, Inspiring Education, Achieving Our Dreams"

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, we celebrate that we are all unique and loved by God. With Christ at the centre of all we do, we strive to unlock each child's potential to become the individuals they are created to be. We are working together to build a community built on love, faith, forgiveness and service.

Mission Statement

The Nature of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups). We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that prayer and liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.
Prayer and liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

The Place of Prayer and liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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. Prayer in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. All children take part in Prayer and Liturgy regardless of religion. Those of other faiths are encouraged to say the prayers but have the option not to make the sign of the cross.

The Aims of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that 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 grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.

Principles

All prayer and liturgy in this school will:

- raise our mind and heart to God;
- celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community;
- be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- support learners' spiritual development;
- give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life, that is 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2);

- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings;
- seek to involve pupils at all times in preparation and leadership.

Organisation

Children pray in different groups during the week.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Whole school 9.00am	In our Chapel Child led Worship	Key Stage KS2 – 2:45pm KS1 – Teacher led	Key Stage KS1 – 2:45pm KS2 – Teacher led	Whole school Celebration Assembly 2:45pm
Based on previous Sunday's Gospel	Child-led Worship Based on the Church's liturgical year / RE theme / PSHE theme Always with scripture	Church's liturgical year / RE theme / PSHE theme Always with scripture	Church's liturgical year / RE theme / PSHE theme Always with scripture	Based on celebrating children's achievements/Gospel Values shown the previous week

Prayer and liturgy themes always follow the liturgical seasons. The following structure is usually followed (See Appendix 2):

- Gather
- Word of God
- Respond
- Mission / Go Forth

Other times of prayer and liturgy in the school year include:

Mass to celebrate the beginning of/end of school year – Whole School
Celebration of Feast Days – Mass in School with the Parish invited for Holy Days of obligation. Appropriate liturgies for other Feast Days.
Reconciliation – for children during Lent and Advent in school.
Christmas and Easter Prayer Services – for the whole school, parents and parishioners in School
Mini Vinnies Masses – Mini Vinnies invited to Parish Masses
Mass to pray especially for the Year 6 leavers – Year 6 and their families and school staff in Church
Prayer Stations – for the whole school during Advent, Pentecost

Voluntary Prayer and Liturgy

The following opportunities are available for pupils to volunteer to participate in:

Lunchtime prayer group – for different year groups led by pupils in our Chapel.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the church's liturgical seasons, our R.E. topics, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture is the focus in all times of prayer and liturgy – the previous Sunday's Gospel is used for whole school and class prayer and liturgy on Monday each week;
- in consultation with appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies;
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community;
- to develop learners' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead prayer and liturgy rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the planning and delivery of prayer and liturgy in class and Key Stage assemblies. In Key Stage 1, pupils may assist the class teacher in selecting appropriate resources (e.g. focus,

music, artwork, prayers) to fit with a given theme. As children progress through Key Stage 2, they take more responsibility for planning and leading class and Key Stage prayer and liturgy using a whole school planning and recording system. Groups are assisted in planning an act of worship by the class teacher using the current Sunday's Gospel as a starting point or a Scripture passage linked to RE learning.

Recording

Prayer and liturgy is recorded:

- through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

Inclusion Vision

> St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is founded on faith in Jesus Christ, and the life of the school is centred on His presence. At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, every member of the school family is regarded as being of equal worth and importance. We endeavour to make sure each class teacher and subject leader understands the meaning of the word inclusion, which recognises differences, meets the needs of individuals and takes positive action, so that everyone has the opportunity to meet their full potential across the curriculum.

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, we are conscious that children are from different faiths. All staff are sensitive to the needs of the children in the group when planning and leading a time of prayer and liturgy. Children who practise other faiths are expected to show respect and dignity during times of prayer and liturgy.

SEN

We recognise the importance of ensuring all children can access Prayer and Liturgy. There are many approaches to giving support in Prayer and Liturgy, some of which are detailed below:

• Use multi – sensory resources such as music, drama and role play will help SEN children engage with Prayer and Liturgy;

• Use of a variety of good-quality resources including video clips as they provide opportunities to understand key Bible stories and themes/values such as love.

- Refer to the SEN policy for further information.

Able, Gifted and Talented

We recognise the importance of ensuring all children can access Prayer and Liturgy. There are many approaches to giving support in Prayer and Liturgy, some of which are detailed below:

• Promote creative thinking through higher order questioning when participating in class and group prayer and liturgy;

• Allow pupils to work collaboratively as part of a prayer and liturgy team and lead class prayer on a regular basis.

English as an Additional Language

We recognise the importance of ensuring all children can access Prayer and Liturgy. There are many approaches to giving support in Prayer and Liturgy, some of which are detailed below:

• Use signs and symbols in prayers such as using signs when praying the Our Father;

• Present information in a variety of ways to help EAL children understand e.g. use images and music to start liturgy, have key words on display during the liturgy.

Pupil Premium

We recognise the importance of ensuring all children can access Prayer and Liturgy. There are many approaches to giving support in Prayer and Liturgy, some of which are detailed below:

• Provide opportunities to enrich the children's experiences of Prayer and Liturgy such as different styles of liturgies throughout the year in our Chapel, Church, in school and in class;

• Ensure children have opportunities to discuss and talk to Father Darren on a regular basis, encouraging children and parents to be part of Parish occasions.

Mobility

We recognise the importance of ensuring all children can access Prayer and Liturgy. There are many approaches to giving support in Prayer and Liturgy, some of which are detailed below:

• Spend some time chatting with pupils about their experiences of Prayer and Liturgy when they first join our school.

• Ensure children know routines of Prayer and Liturgy including explaining some parts of the Mass before celebrating Mass with the school;

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year, the school's provision of prayer and liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading times of prayer and liturgy.

Resources - see Appendix 3

Celebrating Mass in School

Eucharistic celebrations in school highlight a special occasion and are celebrated with pupils whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage (Years 5 and 6). When preparing for Eucharistic celebrations, we work with the Parish Priests to ensure readings are appropriate and in-keeping with the lectionary for the day.

We believe that learners are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach.

In school, therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist is the norm. Mass responses are used in times of Prayer and Liturgy in school whenever appropriate in order to familiarise pupils with these responses.

The Subject Leader for Prayer and Liturgy - Appendix 1

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix 1
The Role of the Subject Leader for Prayer and Liturgy

• Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy;
• Ensuring that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the school development plan;
• Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of learners;
• Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory on Children's Masses'
• Organising themes for Prayer and Liturgy
• Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Prayer and liturgy.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy throughout school
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development/ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up-to-date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc
- Budgeting efficiently

Appendix 2

Class Worship Planning Sheet

Class:		Leaders:		Date:	
Theme:					
Preparation Required					
Gather (Consider how the children will begin the celebration)					
Word of God Listen (To Scripture from the theme, either read it out or enact in some way)					
Respond (How will the children respond to what they have heard)					
Mission (How will the liturgy be concluded?)					

Appendix 3

School Resources for Prayer and liturgy

Where they are kept	Resources
All classes	Appropriately illustrated children's Bible, including the Catholic Children's Bible. Various different styles of Bibles.
Reception	1) Crucifix 2) Candle 3) Appropriate prayer books 4) Cloths and other prayer table resources
Y1	1) Crucifix 2) Candle 3) Appropriate prayer books 4) Cloths and other prayer table resources
Y2	1) Crucifix 2) Candle 3) Appropriate prayer books 4) Cloths and other prayer table resources
Y3	1) Crucifix 2) Candle 3) The Lion Storyteller Bible 4) Appropriate prayer books 5) Cloths and other prayer table resources
Y4	1) Crucifix 2) Candle 3) Appropriate prayer books 4) Cloths and other prayer table resources
Y5	1) Listen! 2) Crucifix 3) Appropriate prayer books 4) Cloths and other prayer table resources 5) Candle
Y6	1) Listen! 2) Experience Jesus Today 3) Candle 4) Crucifix 5) Children's liturgy book 6) Appropriate prayer books 7) Cloths and other prayer table resources

Prayer and Liturgy policy
January 2024

This policy is based on best practice advice from Lancaster Diocesan Education Service.
The implementation of this policy will be monitored by Mrs C Hind and Miss J Murphy in consultation with the Leadership Team and a nominated Governor.
This policy will be reviewed as appropriate by The Senior Leadership Team

Intended Policy Review Date – January 2026

Approved by ___C.Hind_____ (Headteacher)

Date: ___24/01/2024_____

Approved by ___SMSC committee_____(Governor)

Date: ____24/01/2024_____