

ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Written by	Date	Ratified by	Date
A. McAuliffe	2024	Governors	2024

To be reviewed	Annually	Every 3 Years
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Reviewed on	Reviewed by	Next review date
		May 2027

With Jesus alive in our hearts, we celebrate each other and learn together as a family.

Context

Prayer and Liturgy at St. Helen's Catholic Infant School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience

Statement of Requirement

The provision of Prayer and Liturgy fulfils:

- Legal requirements as set out in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (4.1)
- Children's entitlement to experience a range of the liturgical treasures of the Church
- The shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which children in the school will be familiar

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of Headteacher/ Prayer and Liturgy Leader

- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for Liturgy
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles
- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Liturgies and providing feedback
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing new colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Parish Priest
- Liaison with the Brentwood Education Service
- Leading in-service training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back to staff
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters

Role of Governors

- Review the policy and implement any necessary amendments
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of how Prayer and Liturgy are underpinned by the liturgical year
- Understand the different level and skills of participation
- Ensure there is professional development of staff
- Oversee the process of review, ensuring 'pupil voice' is heard
- Allocate sufficient financial budgeting

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church calendar, RED Directory, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Remembrance Day.

The Weekly timetable for Prayer and Liturgy is as follows

- Monday: Hymn Practice
- Tuesday: Class Led Prayer and Liturgy Sessions (parents are invited)
- Wednesday: Headteacher Led Prayer and Liturgy Session
- Thursday: Class Act of Worship
- Friday: Class Act of Worship - Meditation

In addition to the above, other Acts of Worship include

- Class Liturgies - These are a reflection and celebration of their classroom work and are closely linked to the RED Directory topics being studied at that time. Parents, Governors and our Parish Priests are invited to attend in the Spring and Summer Terms.
- Whole School Mass is celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation, both the Infant and the Junior Schools join together on some occasions
- Christmas Nativity (led by Reception) - which parents Governors and our Parish Priests are invited to.
- Easter Assemblies. Four assemblies retell the events of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Parents, Governors and our Parish Priests are invited to attend. The assemblies are reflective and reverent. Where possible, a Parish Priest also attends.
- Remembrance Day – All children and staff take part in 2 minutes silence.
- Year 2 Leavers' Mass – Celebration Mass at the Cathedral with one of our Parish Priest.

Resources

All resources Prayer and Liturgy are located in the blue trays in the corridor outside the Hall.

The Learning Environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment' ¹(Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005)

Reflection Areas are the focal point in each classroom which reflect the liturgical season and will reference the current Come and See topic. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos

Prayer

Children are taught

- Traditional prayers – Our Father and the Hail Mary
- Whole class daily prayers – ‘Good Morning Lord’, ‘Bless us oh God’ and ‘Now the day is ended’.
- Prayers from the heart – The daily prayer leader says a personal addition at the end of the daily prayers.
- Silent Prayers
- Hymn Singing – praising God

Prayer takes many forms and may be carefully structured or more informal. Children are encouraged to pray for the needs of others and for special requests. They may themselves ask prayers for particular intentions.

Above all, prayer is about communication with God: we both speak and listen to Him. It may take the form of adoration, thanksgiving, repentance or intercession. Children and staff alike are encouraged to be drawn into prayer and worship through a variety of celebrations. These are enhanced by: hymns, reflective music, silence, spoken and sung prayers, movement / dance, scripture, stories, atmosphere – candles, icons, focal points, drama.

Parents play an invaluable role in leading their children in prayer. They are informed of the class prayers for their child and are invited to attend assemblies when their child is involved.

Staff, Governors and the Parents Association of St. Helen’s Catholic Infant School begin all meetings with a prayer.

CPD

Catholic Teachers Certificate (CCRS)

- All teachers are encouraged to secure this qualification in R.E. It is expected that the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and all aspiring to Senior Leadership will obtain this.

INSET

- Regular Inset each term is allocated to Prayer and Liturgy every year (at least once a year)

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Prayer and Liturgy Policy is reviewed every three years
- Prayer and Liturgy sessions are monitored by the Headteacher and the Governor responsible for RE

Links with Other Policies

- Religious Education Policy