St Joseph’s RC Primary School

Prayer and

Liturgy Policy



**Review Date:** March 2025

**Next Review Date:** January 2026

Mission Statement

St Joseph’s is proud to be a Catholic School. Everything we aim to achieve will be based on the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church. Through this Catholic ethos we strive to develop in the school community respect and care for everyone.

In partnership between staff, children, parents, parish and the wider community we want to give every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential by developing their own gifts and talents. We aim to create a successful learning environment where all feel welcome, safe and part of the community. We wish through the whole life of our school for every child to realise their own worth and value.

## Aim of the policy

We aim to help, encourage and show God’s way to our families, making sure that our

Catholic traditions and faith are kept alive in God’s unique family. Each year at school, we learn a little bit more about our faith so that we can grow to love God and each other more.

At St Joseph’s, we seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We remember this when putting our policies into practice and living out our mission.

As Catholic educators we are privileged to fulfil the mission Jesus gave us, ‘Go out and teach all nations’ as we aim ‘To be the best we can be’. We want everyone to experience a

close and loving relationship with God as he invites us to ‘Live life to the full’

We set out to encourage spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the individual, appreciating every child’s, parents’ and staffs’ individual relationship with God within our community and the wider world. The aim is that this is integrated into the whole life of the school, the whole curriculum and the relationships with other members of God’s family around the world through prayer.

## Our School Prayer

## Let us pray this morning, for friend ship in our school.

## May we live happily and joyfully with each other.

## Let there be care and concern in all our friendships.

## Let us remember that a school is only as good as the people in it.

## Dear God, help us to make our school a place where people feel welcome, content and secure

**We aim to:**

* Live out our mission collectively and individually
* Think about the mystery of God and our relationship with him
* Respond to and celebrate our achievements and life.
* Emphasis through prayer and worship the Catholic ethos of our school.
* Encourage children of all faiths to express feelings and emotions through independent, group, class and collective worship.
* Help each child to live, grow and contribute through prayer in our school community.

## Prayer and Worship

We believe that our prayer and worship celebrate God’s presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in thoughts, feelings, words and actions, to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. In prayer, we can tell God anything, for he formed us in His image and knows us through and through.

Worship in our school is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition and heritage. It is a powerful way to develop and establish a school’s ethos and values.

Planned opportunities for high quality worship are an essential part of our school life. Collective worship, individual prayer time and opportunities for reflection at school are provided for all children. The aim is to enrich the religious experiences for both children AND adults in our community. We are blessed at St Joseph’s to have the Blessed Sacrament with us all the time and our children are able to prayer before the Lord.

**We believe that prayer and worship should take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:**

* Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
* Those from whom school may be their first and only experience of church
* Those form other Christian traditions or none
* Those from other faith backgrounds.

**We offer:**

* Daily prayers at the beginning and end of each day as well as before and after lunch
* Weekly group masses in our school chapel.
* Weekly whole school Collective Worship
* Weekly class Prayer and Liturgy.
* Whole school Masses at the key points in the liturgical year
* Class Masses at church weekly with parents and parishioners attending these masses
* Regular opportunities to sing and praise the Lord in weekly school singing assembl
* Music assemblies both whole school and in groups.
* Exposition in the school chapel where families are invited to pray with their children.
* Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar eg Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, October and the Holy Rosary.

## Collective Worship - What we do

At St Joseph’s we hold prayer at the centre of each day. The children are introduced to formal prayers in Early Years and this is carried on throughout the school. We use TenTen Collective Worship, supported by the Wednesday Word as a basis for this worship. We understand that formal prayers are not the only way to talk to God. Children are encouraged through class prayer and worship times to speak to God in their own hearts by using their own form of prayer and/or reflection. This is done with reverence through sitting and giving time to meditate and reflect. In KS2, the children plan and lead the collective worship. Mini Vinnie members support the class teacher and younger classes in the school in the delivery of collective worship in the classroom and assembly.

## Class Assemblies

Each class assembly is done creatively with interaction and prayer. Each class has an allocated time to visit the chapel and can visit the sensory/prayer garden in the school grounds each week.

The children are given the opportunities to pray or reflect at various times of the day for different purposes. At all times the children are encouraged to develop a positive self-image and think deeply.

## Class Masses

Class masses are held in the church, with a different class attending each week. Whole school masses are held in church. For example, Advent, Lent, beginning and the end of the year and on Holy days of obligation e.g Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day etc. Children prepare the readings and the offertory procession.

**Worship through the curriculum**

At key religious times of the year, particularly at Easter and Christmas, the children explore drama to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and perform plays for the parent and community. Every Friday the whole school come together at a Praise Assembly where the successes of the week are celebrated.

## Pupils as leaders

Throughout the school, it is expected that the children take more of a leading role in acts of worship. Mini Vinnies meet each week with the liturgical leaders to discuss the Gospel reading of the week and plan Prayer and Liturgy for each class. KS2 use Ten Ten and KS1, the Wednesday Word. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer in the form of an altar and a prayer table for use during Prayer and Liturgy.

Parents are invited to attend to all special occasions in school.

## Prayers across school

Prayers are said a minimum of four points of the day:

1. Start of day
2. Before lunch
3. After lunch
4. End of day

As a Catholic school we have the responsibility to teach prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition. It is agreed that children should become familiar with or know the following prayers:

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| **Early Years** | **Key Stage 1** | **Key Stage 2** |
| 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. | (In addition to EYFS prayers)  School Prayer  Glory be to the Father Morning Offering Grace at Meals  Mass responses  Angelus | (In addition to KS1 prayers)  Hail Holy Queen  I confess  Eternal rest  Act of contrition  At Mass:  -Penitential Rite  -Glory to God (Gloria)  -Offertory prayers  -Lamb of God  -Holy holy, holy |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Some simple phrases from the  psalms |

## Evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy

The RE Leader and other SLT will monitor work and delivery of the Prayer and

Worship in line with the school’s monitoring calendar. Prayer and Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in their own personal faith journey. This evaluation will help the RE Leader to focus staff in their means of evaluating and reflecting upon the delivery of prayer and worship and how to move forward in trying or sharing different or new methods to assist and facilitate children in their spiritual and moral growth and development.

## Inclusion

St Joseph’s is committed to provide a range of activities in Prayer and Worship for all children. Acts of worship/ celebrations will be short and appropriately paced; including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings. All children, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEND) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) are integrated and supported in the teaching and learning of RE and Prayer and Worship.

## Resources

There are many resources available to support Prayer and Worship. The use of music and hymns will add to the prayer and worship experience and atmosphere. Resources have been purchased to enhance prayer and worship from other faiths. Each class has an altar which reflects the current liturgical season as well as a Prayer and Liturgy table.

## Sacramental Programme

St Joseph’s support the parish in preparation for the Year Three children on their Sacramental Programme Journey. Meetings are arranged to take place to support the children in the delivery of the programme journey, ensuring the children have the knowledge, understanding and spiritual support to enable them to by fully received as Catholics into the Parish of St. Joseph’s.

## Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE lead and the governing body every year.