

# St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

Pilch Lane  
Liverpool  
L14 0JG



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2023/24

<b>Committee to approve/ratify policy</b>	Curriculum & Policies
<b>Policy Co-ordinator</b>	S Travis
<b>Date of approval/ratification by Committee</b>	November 2023
<b>Date for renewal</b>	November 2024
<b>Signature of the Chair of the Committee</b>	S Boardman

### **Mission Statement:**

Loving, learning, growing together with Jesus

## **Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and Liturgy at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It is rooted in the example and teachings of Jesus Christ whilst taking into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.

The school is a Catholic foundation and therefore, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it reflects and follows the traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart.

We believe that Christian Worship 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Come and See programme provides opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and explicit ways. All children are involved and given an opportunity to respond in an act of daily worship. This gives all involved, time to contemplate the mystery of God, the wonder of life and to draw us closer to God. On these occasions children are given the opportunities to participate, to reflect and to respond.

## **Aims for Prayer and Liturgy**

- To promote and develop an appreciation of more active participation in prayer, liturgy and worship, relevant to the age and experience of each child.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To be respectful and reverent towards beliefs of others.
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer.
- To develop links with the parish community.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To reinforce home/school/parish links.
- To foster a sense of wonder and joy in creation and to promote an understanding of responsibility for their world.
- To affirm and develop individual dignity.
- To give children the opportunity to build a personal relationship with God.

## **Objectives for Prayer and Liturgy**

- To provide a daily act of worship for pupils and staff.
- To provide a prayer focus for each classroom.
- To provide opportunities for reflection and silent prayer.
- To encourage a variety of methods of prayer.
- To gather together to celebrate the special times in the school calendar and liturgical year.
- To develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

## **Organisation for Prayer and Liturgy**

The Headteacher and Leadership team establish arrangements for Prayer and Liturgy, in consultation with the staff and Governing Body.

The Headteacher will ensure that Prayer and Liturgy is provided each day for each child.

It will feature on every class timetable, year group or whole school gathering.

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or a member of the Leadership team will lead worship for larger groups.

In class, the Class Teacher or a group of pupils will usually lead Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Resources**

Resourcing Prayer and Liturgy is achieved largely through the R.E budget. A list of resources is available in the R.E handbook.

- Each class has a set of cloths in the appropriate liturgical colours for the church's year and other resources to provide choices for a focus for worship within the classroom.
- In addition, there is a large variety of whole school resources held centrally in the school Prayer and Liturgy stock cupboard.

### **Guidelines for the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy**

#### **Structure**

All forms of Prayer and Liturgy follow the accepted four-fold structure of gather, listen, respond and go forth and particular emphasis may be placed on specific parts as appropriate. All forms of prayer and Liturgy must contain some form of scripture, whether it be a full passage or just a short sentence for reflection and meditation.

#### **Classroom**

- 5 – 10 minutes in duration.
- Atmosphere for prayer assisted by candles, music, artefacts, display of children's work.
- Include an opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection.
- Sometimes worship will be quiet and contemplative and at other times involve music and dance.
- Led by teacher, pupils or a combination.
- Use of scripture, hymns or prayers.

#### **Assembly**

- No more than 10 minutes in duration (Monday and Friday)
- Always include opportunity for prayer and scripture; may include hymns.
- Encourage parental and parish support.
- Enable children to grow in confidence within liturgical setting.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluating of Prayer and Liturgy**

#### **Planned**

- Through reference to the church's seasons, significant dates and the Come and See curriculum.
- With the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- Adequately resourced.

#### **Recorded**

- Through display, prayers and photographs etc.
- Through Archdiocese planning keeping note of themes, leaders and pupil groupings.

#### **Evaluated**

- By staff and pupils on a regular basis.

## **Conclusion**

Every effort will be made to ensure that frequent discussion of the Prayer and Liturgy Policy will take place in order to develop fully our Faith Community. This is a continuous process requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils and the involvement of others as appropriate.

## **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School we plan to provide for all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, cultural background, academic ability, Special Educational Need/Disability or vulnerability to achieve their full potential.

## **Policy Links:**

RE Policy

Spirituality Policy

Behaviour Policy