



# OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Prayer and Liturgy Policy (Collective Worship)

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Post Holder Responsible for Review:	John-Paul Shanahan



## Legal Requirements

The legal requirement is 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 by either 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. At Our Lady of Fatima, responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy rests with the governing body after consultation with the Principal.

## 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 and liturgy in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

## The Aims of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- contemplate the mystery of God;
- unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;
- develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:-

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

## Implementation

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;

- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Whole-school prayer and liturgy takes place in the hall every week. On all other days, it takes place in class, at the start or end of the day. Content will follow the Gospel teachings and the liturgical calendar.

Prayer and liturgy in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

**Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sat in a different format, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

**Listen (word)** - a reading from the Scriptures, breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;

**Respond (action)** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

**Go forth (mission)** - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

#### Celebration of the Eucharist

This takes place weekly in school for groups of classes and at the beginning and end of terms, on holy or celebratory days in the hall for the whole school. Special Masses are also arranged at Our Lady of Fatima Church on other special occasions.

#### Policy Monitoring and Review

The Governance Committee are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to prayer and liturgy, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998. It is the overall responsibility of the Governance Committee, in consultation with the Principal, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the RE Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. The Local Governing Body (LGB) should review reports on the prayer life of the school.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for prayer and liturgy;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether prayer and liturgy is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on prayer and liturgy and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;

- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in prayer and liturgy.

Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process. Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and the LGB with recommendations for future action.

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Prayer and liturgy:**

The co-ordinator will be

responsible for:-

- Formulating a written policy;

- Ensuring there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy;
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils;
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings;
- Organising themes for worship;
- Assisting the Governance Committee in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy.

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.



**Commitment to Equality:**

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Safeguarding Policy has been approved and adopted by Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School on 09.10.24 and will be reviewed in 09.2025.

Signed by the Chair of the Local Governing Body for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Mr Matthew Higgins

Signed by the Principal for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School:

Mr John-Paul Shanahan

