



Our Lady & St Edward Liturgical Prayer Policy



Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Rational

Our Catholic Schools are called to be Gospel inspired worshipping communities. The daily act of worship is an integral part of the life of Our Lady & St Edward's School community. Through scripture, prayer, worship and liturgy, we aim to celebrate our relationship with Christ and to nurture the growth of every child in the Catholic Faith and live out the Gospel values we share.

To achieve this aim we seek to:

- Create a sense of belonging.
- Foster an atmosphere of prayer and reflection
- Develop an appreciation of worship as a celebration which is a joyful community experience.
- Provide an atmosphere where the children can explore, question and reflect upon their own faith.
- Value and encourage the children's prayer, worship and liturgical contributions.
- Affirm each other's gifts and talents.
- Foster an attitude of tolerance and acceptance of others.
- Make our liturgy, worship and prayer relevant to the age and development of the children.
- Include liturgical activities which reflect the Church's seasons.
- Encourage Home/School/Parish links in our worship and support for our Parish Sacramental Programme.
- Encourage full and active participation through the use of words, song, gesture, music, silence, reflection, listening and sharing.
- Help the children to develop a habit of prayer in their daily lives.
- Make links with the liturgical practice of the wider church, and help develop the children's knowledge of the rich traditions of the Church.
- Make the lives of the Saints and our church leaders relevant to the lives of our young people.

Worship and Prayer

Prayer reflects our personal relationship with God and celebrates our community as God's family gathered together.

Children become familiar with traditional prayer through its use in school. The meanings behind the words and gestures are explored and explained.

Spontaneous, informal prayer is also encouraged, as the children are helped to talk to God in their own words. There is also a time for quiet and reflection, which helps the children to be silent before God, to listen to Him and reflect on all that He gives us.

We hope to create a prayerful atmosphere using reflective music as we gather and focus on the cross and the candle and other focus artefacts, as Christ our Light, is present amongst us.

We gather for prayer at the start of the day; during assembly; for Grace before meals and at the end of the day when we reflect on the day, say sorry for what has gone wrong, ask for God's help and thank God for all the good things we have experienced.



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We also gather for Collective worship in class groups and for paired collective worships, weekly, led by the children. These are recorded and evaluated by each class in own class collective worship books, which are kept on R.E displays.

Eucharistic Celebrations

The children are encouraged to fully and actively participate in the preparation and celebration of Mass.

Whole School Mass takes place at least termly with Holy Days observed.

House Feast Days are celebrated with a house mass in church.

These are usually celebrated in Church with the parish community, prepared by the school. Classes take it in turns to prepare the Mass.

Children are encouraged to reflect upon the readings, compose their own Penitential Rite and Bidding Prayers, help to choose the hymns, present the Word of God in word, gesture, dance and to act as altar servers.

The class teacher and the Head Teacher as the Liturgical Prayer Leader provide the priest with a Mass Planning Sheet.

Each term the children will lead the parish in Sunday Mass.

Gathering Together

Our hope, in coming together for prayer, is that we might celebrate our belonging, develop the children's spirituality and deepen their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to enter and leave quietly and to listen and participate (when appropriate). The cross, candle, gentle music or other appropriate focus are used, a focus table is set up by the 'chaplaincy team'

Assembly themes relate to the liturgical year, the Sunday Gospels, the "Come and See" themes, CAFOD events; world events, Bible Stories, social and moral issues. Scripture is always at the centre of our prayer life.

Whole School Assemblies – All children and staff are present and the assembly is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. These assemblies concentrate on the Sunday Gospel reading, liturgical feast or season, drawing the children's attention to the message of the Gospel. The Word of the Week are shared at these assemblies, for reflection during the week in class.

Liturgical Seasons– These are held at the end of the day and take the form of reflections on Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter and thanksgiving for the school year. The emphasis is on stillness and contemplation (where appropriate for the season). The hall is darkened, candles are lit and reflective music is played. We pray together and listen to God's Word. Parents are always invited.

Reconciliation and Rosary – During the season of Advent and Lent the Chaplaincy Team lead Year 4, 5 and 6 in a Service of Reconciliation. During the month of May all children in Key Stage 2 lead the whole school in a short service dedicated to the rosary

Paired Pupil Led Liturgy -They focus on the main events of the Church's year, feast days on or around that day, the Liturgical Seasons, stories from the Bible, the Sacraments and other key themes relevant to today's society.



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Themed Assemblies – During the course of the school year there is likely to be a number of themed assemblies linked to events in school (eg Other Faith Week; World Book Day) or specific activities (eg CAFOD ; Harvest Celebration; Samaritan’s Purse ;Youth Fun Day). There is always time for scripture, prayer and song, reflection and mission.

Celebration Assemblies – Parents are welcome to attend these assemblies where we celebrate the achievements of all our children. Two children are chosen – 1 for academic achievement and one for living out our values.

Achiever Award Assemblies We also have half termly Achiever awards celebrations which celebrates individual children, good attendance, house points and other achievements eg sporting awards, kindness etc

Wednesday Word

We share the Wednesday Word with families and it is displayed throughout school.

Evidencing

A termly rota is produced listing all the assemblies and liturgies and who will lead them.

A clearly visible record is kept in the entrance hall of all assemblies and liturgical celebrations. This lists the type, theme, Scripture reference, prayers, and hymns.

Hymn Practice

This takes place each week after our Word of the Week Assembly and is led by Miss Whitmore. Year 3 and 4, also participate in the School Singing Programme with Greg Treloar and represent the school at events.

Resources

Each class has their own resource bank of Let us Pray resources.

All staff have access to the ‘Be Inspirational’ website (where required password is ‘romans12’) which contains: differentiated prayer resources for each Key Stage to support all Come and See topics, resources for planning and delivering Collective Worship and resources for planning Mass in school. All staff also have access to the Google Drive (username: beinspirational.else password: romans12) which allows for easy storage and exchange of resources with the Trust.

Staff also have access to the new NCYDS website with further resources on with the same password. Assembly, Mass books and child-friendly Bibles are kept on the RE resources shelves in the entrance. Audio, DVD and IWB resources are also stored in the library.

Posters and visual aids are kept in the RE cupboard.

A wide range of drapes, crosses, candles, statues, icons are available in the entrance hall.

Hymns are on the server.

Resources for Mass are kept in a box in the cupboard in the RE cupboard.

Resources to celebrate other faiths are stored in the cupboards in the entrance.

Chaplains.

We have a hub chaplain who visits school for half a day a week. Over the course of the year, they lead retreat afternoons across school focusing on Bishop Patrick’s priorities and support classes with preparing liturgies and Masses.



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CPD for staff

Regular CPD for staff is provided by the Multi academy trust chaplains and the Diocesan centre at Mackworth or at Holy Trinity, this is also available for new staff. Staff are provided with opportunities for personal prayer and spiritual development. All staff meetings start with a time of prayer and staff are encouraged to support each other on their own faith journeys.

Trust Links

Our Lady and St Edward School is actively involved in the joint activities and celebrations of the Trust. All staff attend the Joint INDSET Day for all Trust staff to support their personal spiritual development. Students have taken part in our hub and trust feast day masses.

Diocesan Links

The school aims to be an active and enthusiastic participant in the life of the wider Diocese. Where possible, the school takes part and engages with diocesan celebrations and projects throughout the year for example Masses and Liturgies for Schools at the Cathedral. Where we are not all able to attend an event we have arranged our Collective Worship to incorporate live broadcasts so that we are part of our Diocesan family.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed and evaluated throughout the academic year. It is updated annually.
Date to be reviewed: January 2025