

# St Peter's Catholic Primary School



## Prayer & Liturgy Policy

Agreed by Governors: March 2025

## **Policy for Prayer and Liturgy**

We are a school that believes in inclusivity and placing our children at the heart of everything we do. Here at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School our aim is to ensure that all children have access to a high-quality education and begin their lives in education feeling safe, confident and valued as unique members of God's Family.

### **Our Mission Statement**

In Joy and Hope: In joy we live together. In hope we build for the future.

### **Definition of Terms**

**Liturgy** is a formal act of the church.

**Liturgical prayer** follows structural patterns found in the liturgy. The term is used in this Policy for celebrations which are created for the school community and not directly taken from the liturgical books of the Church.

**Prayer** takes place, for example, at the beginning and end of the school day. Although such prayer times will have a clear structure, they may rely less on formal elements taken from the Liturgy.

### **The nature of prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy 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.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge that within maintained schools and academies, there is a legal requirement for an 'Act of Collective Worship' to take place daily. Those responsible for governance are legally required to ensure that it is provided.

Throughout this policy we have replaced the term Collective Worship with the phrase Prayer and Liturgy, which more fittingly describes its role in a Catholic school. It is the responsibility of Governors that it is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by 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, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

**The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School** We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy considers 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 more than just a legal requirement. It 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 aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## **Principles**

All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
  - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
  - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Prayer and Liturgy is organised as follows:

**Monday** – Whole school assembly (led by a member of SLT) centred around our Values.

**Tuesday** – Class prayer and liturgy

**Wednesday** – Class/ key stage Assemblies linked to our values/ gospel values, themes from RE scheme and significant dates – led by class teachers.

**Thursday** – Class prayer and liturgy

**Friday** – Whole school celebration Assembly (led by SLT) and Class prayer and liturgy.

## **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective worship**

### **Prayer & Liturgy:**

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of prayer and liturgy.
- to relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community

- to develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

#### **Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:**

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders and pupil groupings
- on the school's shared drive where it is then possible to keep a note of themes, leaders and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy 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 organising and leading Prayer and Liturgy.

#### **Resources**

There are many resources available for planning Prayer and Liturgy. These are stored in classrooms and in a central store. They are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role.

#### **Eucharist**

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Prayer and Liturgy strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school Masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at St. Peter's.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors.

Signed ..... (Chair of Governors) Date .....

Signed ..... (Headteacher) Date .....