

Cheadle Catholic Junior School



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"Following in the footsteps of Jesus"

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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VISION STATEMENT

'Forward in Faith following in the footsteps of Jesus'

Our Mission Statement

At Cheadle Catholic Junior School we strive to:

- Nurture all children to follow in the teachings of Jesus.
- Develop a love for learning for all of our school family.
- Provide a rich, varied and stimulating curriculum full of exciting learning opportunities.
- Communicate and demonstrate high expectations so that good behaviour is evident in all aspects of school life.
- Recognise that everyone is unique, each with their own skills and talents and celebrate this uniqueness.
- Create a positive, happy, stimulating and purposeful atmosphere in all aspects of school life, nurturing individuals to feel confident and safe.
- Work together in close partnership with parents, governors and the wider community.

Our Children's Aims

- *We Grow in Faith*
- *Respect Everyone*
- *Celebrate differences and goodness in others*
- *Challenge ourselves*
- *Engage ourselves and others through Jesus' example*

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that 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 the legal requirement 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.)

The act of worship 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 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 experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship 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 Worship 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 and age appropriate liturgical experiences

Prayer and Liturgy takes place as a whole school, in key stages, and classes.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- 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 worship
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop skills in pupils that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- in a floor book to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place to ascertain whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Children are encouraged to share their thoughts and responses to Prayer and Liturgy.

Pupil responses are taken into account as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Resources

Prayer and collective worship boxes are set up for each class. We also have a central bank of resources, containing a variety of resources.

Eucharist

There are many opportunities for our families to come and share prayer experiences with the children. We have whole school Masses or liturgies to highlight special occasions in the Liturgical year. During the season of Advent and Lent we hold special services in each class offering our children the opportunity of reconciliation and our younger children the opportunity to reflect at these special times. The same general principles apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate and lead will be maximised.

Conclusion

It is the responsibility of our Catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Prayer and Liturgy in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

In order to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.