

Our Lady's Bishop Eton Catholic Primary School.



Prayer and liturgy Policy
Autumn 24

Living, Loving and Learning in Jesus

Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy at Our Lady's Bishop Eton Catholic Primary School offers a platform for both students and staff to unite together to worship God. It draws inspiration from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ while considering the spiritual and educational needs of all who partake 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 central figure.

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. These acts of devotion, expressed through both spoken words and deeds, represent our loving response to God's invitation to engage in a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The 'Come and See' and 'To Know You More Clearly' programmes create opportunities for celebration, prayer and contemplation, both explicitly and implicitly. Every child actively participates and has the chance to engage in daily acts of worship. This gives all involved time to contemplate the mystery of God, the wonder of life and to draw us closer to God. During these occasions' children are given the opportunities to participate, to reflect and to respond.

Aims for prayer and liturgy

- Encourage and nurture a deeper understanding of active participation in prayer, liturgy, and worship, tailored to each child's age and life experience.
- Encourage contemplation of spiritual and ethical matters, allowing children to explore their personal beliefs.
- To be respectful and reverent towards beliefs of others.
- Strengthen positive attitudes towards prayer.
- To develop links with the parish community.
- Cultivate a shared ethos and values that unify the community.
- Enhance the richness of religious experiences.

- To reinforce the connections between home, school and 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.
- Provide children with the opportunity to establish a personal relationship with God.

Objectives for prayer and liturgy

- To provide a daily act of worship for pupils and staff.
- Establishing a prayer focus within each classroom.
- Creating occasions for contemplation and moment of silent prayer.
- To encourage a variety of methods of prayer.
- Gathering together to celebrate significant events in the school calendar and within the liturgical year.
- Equip pupils with the skills to plan, arrange, and lead worship, enabling them to engage fully and wholeheartedly.

Organisation for prayer and liturgy

The Headteacher and Leadership team collaborate with the staff and the Governing Body to establish arrangements for prayer and liturgy.

The Headteacher will ensure the provision of daily prayer and liturgy for each child. It will be incorporated into every class schedule, either within the classroom or during school-wide assemblies.

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers or a member of teaching staff will lead worship for whole school gatherings twice a week.

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 staffroom.

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 worship must incorporate elements of scripture, whether through complete passages or specific sections meant for reflection and contemplation.

Classroom

Prayer and liturgy is led by the teacher, pupils or a combination.

Creating a reflective atmosphere is facilitated by the presence of candles, music, relevant artefacts, and displays showcasing children's work. These sessions should provide an opportunity for prayer and moments of peaceful reflection.

Sometimes worship will be quiet and contemplative and at other times involve elements of music, dance and drama.

Whole School Worship

- Children will gather whole school and worship/ praise assembly will take place in the hall (Monday and Wednesday/Thursday).
- Always include opportunity for prayer and scripture; may include hymns.
- Enable children to grow in confidence within liturgical setting.
- Planned through reference to the church's seasons, significant dates and the prayer and liturgy weekly theme.
- With the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- Adequately resourced.

Recorded

Through PowerPoints, prayers and photographs etc.

Through the school termly prayer and liturgy themes and the Catholic Life Calendar, noting themes, seasons and saint's days etc.

Evaluated

By staff and pupils on a regular basis.

We are committed to fostering open discussion of the prayer and liturgy policy, ensuring the ongoing growth of our faith community. This is a continuous process requiring a collaborative partnership between teachers and pupils and the inclusion of others where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

At Our Lady's Bishop Eton Primary 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

This policy links to:

- RE Policy
- Spirituality Policy
- Behaviour Policy