

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Mission Statement

St Anthony said,

“Let your words teach and your actions speak”.

At St Anthony's we stand together following Christ in all that we do.

We love life, have fun, forgive and celebrate as a Catholic family.

We give all of ourselves, and always accept a challenge.

Lord, help us to shine like stars and share the good news of Jesus.

“Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.”

***Guide us St Anthony
Dirige Sancte Antoni***

Introduction

At St Anthony's, Prayer and Liturgy is integral to developing the children's relationship with Christ. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre.

Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life. At St Anthony's we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church.

Children take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. We believe worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives. It celebrates his presence amongst us today and allows children and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him.

In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, assemblies, meditation and liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the children to develop their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

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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 the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. 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.

As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well established Safeguarding procedures.

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. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or Church.

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 more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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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.

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Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

	Type	Involves	Frequency	Location	Led by...
A	Gospel Assembly	KS1 & 2	Every Monday (or start of week)	Junior Hall	SLT
B	Morning Prayer	All Classes	Daily 9 am (unless in hall)	In Class	Teacher/ Prayer Leader/ Prayer Angels
C	Angelus	KS1 & 2	Daily After Break	In Class	Teacher/ Prayer Leader/ Prayer Angels
D	Grace Before & After Meals	All Classes	Daily Before and After Lunch	In Class	Teacher/ Prayer Leader/ Prayer Angels
E	Evening Prayer	All Classes	Daily End of Day	In Class	Teacher/ Prayer Leader/ Prayer Angels
F	Class Prayer and Liturgy	All Classes	As Per Timetable 2 Week in 3	In Class	Children under teacher guidance
G	Class Chapel Prayer and Liturgy	All Classes	As Per Timetable 1 Week in 3	In Chapel	Member of the RE Team/ Children/ Teacher
H	Mass of Commission for MVs/ Y6 Buddies/ Y6 Leaders	Rec-Y6	Annually	In Church	Parish Priest and RE Team
I	Special Mass with Parish	Rec-Y6	Timetabled Through Year e.g. Feast Days/ Holy Day of Obligation/ Start of School Year etc.	In Church	Parish Priest, RE Team and Parishioners
J	Friday Parish Mass	Rec-Y6	Weekly As Per Timetable	In Church	PP (Children Prayers of the Faithful)
K	Class Masses with Parishioners	KS2	As Per Timetable (One Per Year)	Chapel	Class
L	Celebration Prayer and Liturgy – Theme RE Curric/ Liturgical Year	Rec-Y6	As Per Timetable (One Per Year) Autumn and Spring Friday am/pm	Junior Hall	Class
M	Year Group Celebration of Work	All Classes	As Per Timetable (One Per Year) Summer Friday am/pm	Junior Hall	Whole Year Group
N	Weekly Friday Celebration	Rec-Y6	Alternate Weeks with L	Infant/ Junior Hall	SLT and Head of Years
O	Cluster Mass	TBD	As Per Timetable – FHC/ Y6/ School Staff	TBD	Parish Priests and Designated Staff Member
P	Quiet Liturgies	KS1 & 2	Advent and Lent	J Hall and Class	SLT and Class Teachers
Q	Stations of the Cross	KS2	Annually Lent Towards Holy Week	In Church	SLT and RE Team

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Monday Prayer and Liturgy Gathering Themes (each week, we link to the Gospel of the Sunday before).

Term	Virtue	Special Dedications/ Wider Themes
Autumn 1	Respect / Courtesy	Start of School Year Education Sunday – Good Attendance and Punctuality – Value Education (2 nd Sunday September) St Teresa of Calcutta (5 th September) World Day of Prayer for Day of Creation - Environment Harvest Fast Day Preparation (Last Sunday of September) St Francis of Assisi (4 th October)
	Thankfulness	Mental Health Day (10 th October) Month of the Rosary (October) St John Henry Newman (9 th October) Black History Month (October)
Autumn 2	Hope	All Saints and All Souls – Beatitudes (1 st and 2 nd November) Remembrance Sunday (Closest to 11 th November) Universal Children Day (20 th November) St Andrew (30 th November)
	Patience	Advent – Getting Ready Human Rights Day – Migrants Day, Amnesty and Prisoners of Conscience (10 th December) Gaudete Sunday (3 rd Sunday of Advent)
Spring 1	Faith	Epiphany – Gifts to God/ New Year's Resolution (6 th January) Baptism of the Lord (1 st Sunday OT) World Peace Day (2 nd Sunday OT) Conversion of St Paul (25 th Jan)
	Simplicity	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 th Jan) St Josephine Bakhita – Abolition of Slavery (8 th Feb) World Day of the Sick/ Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (11 th Feb) World Epilepsy Day (14 th February)
Spring 2	Charity	Lent – Charity CAFOD Family Fast Day (Follows 1 st Sunday of Lent) Lent – Taking Action St David (1 st March) International Women's Day (8 th March)
	Forgiveness	St Patrick (17 th March) International Day of Happiness (20 th March) Lots of Socks Day – Down Syndrome Awareness (21 st March) St Oscar Romero (24 th March) Lent – Prayer and Moving to Holy Week

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Summer 1	Perseverance & Resilience	Season of Easter St George (23 rd April) 3 rd Sunday of Easter – The Road to Emmaus
	Kindness	4 th Sunday of Easter – The Good Shepherd Month of Mary (May) St Anthony's Sports Week (Last School Week of May) Pentecost
Summer 2	Honesty	Trinity Sunday & Corpus Christi St Anthony (13 th June) Fathers' Day (Third Sunday of June)
	Service	SS Peter and Paul (29 th June) Reflections on the end of the School Year Staying safe over the summer

Friday Class Led Celebration Prayer and Liturgy Gathering Themes

Term	Virtue	Worship Theme
Autumn 1	Respect / Courtesy	Start of Year Following Rules
	Thankfulness	Harvest
Autumn 2	Hope	The Beatitudes/ Remembrance/ Christ The King
	Patience	Advent and Getting Ready
Spring 1	Faith	Parables and Calling of the Apostles
	Simplicity	Caring for Creation Climate
Spring 2	Charity	Lent, Love Your Neighbour, CAFOD, Good Samaritan
	Forgiveness	Prodigal Son
Summer 1	Perseverance & Resilience	Doubting Thomas
	Kindness	"Be kind and tender hearted to one another." St Paul St Teresa of Calcutta
Summer 2	Honesty	Ten Commandments, Boy Who Cried Wolf (link to Book of Proverbs – Proverbs 12:17-20)
	Service	Pope Francis Servant King

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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 & The Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- 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.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

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

Each class has an RE box with artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set of text books and age appropriate Bibles. Other resources are available in central store and Chapel, including:

- Posters
- Candles
- CAFOD materials
- Graphic Bibles
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics

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Prayer and Liturgical Retreats

During special times, such as, Advent and Lent, the Chapel will be open for voluntary prayer and worship. In addition, restrictions allowing, we timetable retreat times through the year. Retreats have included:

Year Group	Retreat	Led By
All Children	Holy Week Retreat	RE Team, SLT and All Teachers
Year 6	Styal Woods Walk in September, Ghyll Head in Summer and Y6 Transition Service	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team
Year 5	Savio House/ Marist Centre (Summer Term)	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team, with Centre Staff
Year 4	St Anthony's Parish Hall (Advent)	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team
Year 3	Prayer Relays (Lent and Easter)	Head of Year, TA4, Other Schools and RE Team
Year 2	Summer School Ground Retreat	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team
Year 1	Summer School Ground Retreat	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team
Reception	With Y6 Buddies within the school in the Summer	Head of Year, TA4 and RE Team
Mini Vinnies	Cluster Retreat	RE Team and MV Lead
Staff	Annual Mass, Inset Retreat, Biannual Cluster Event	SLT

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school Prayer and Liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to school guidance.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At **Key Stage 1** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- whole school, class and year group mass.

At **Key Stage 2** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- whole school, class and year group mass.

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.

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