



Love ~ Respect ~ Shine

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Version	Author	Policy approved by	Approval date	Review date	Changes made?
V1	H.O'Reilly	Staff	July 2022	July 2025	

'Every Catholic school is a community with Christ at the centre. Prayer and Liturgy are at the heart of the community life of the Catholic school. They are essential to the Catholic life and mission of the school.'

Prayer and Liturgy Directory

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, we aim to provide opportunities which challenge and enrich the religious experiences of all who share them, deepening their sense of belonging to the faith community of the school and parish and ensuring that all these experiences are worthwhile, positive celebrations which prepare children for the liturgical life of the church.

Prayer and Liturgy form a continuum with a celebration of Mass at one end and silent meditation at the other:

- Prayer: traditional or spontaneous
- Liturgical Prayer: celebrations created for the school community and not taken from the liturgical books of the Church.
- Liturgy: a formal act of the Church such as Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Prayer and Liturgy in Cheadle Catholic Infant School is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. Children are encouraged to participate in a variety of celebrations developing their sense of belonging to the community. Prayer and Liturgy opportunities in the classroom, hall and outside areas enable children to develop their own abilities to deal with the experiences of daily life with growing personal insights, expressing their own thoughts and feelings.

We believe that Liturgy and Prayer in our school should provide all pupils and staff with the opportunity to:

- enrich their religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding and development
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- participate fully
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- respond to and celebrate life
- contemplate something of the mystery of God.

Prayer

"Teaching the young how to pray, and not simply requiring them to pray at set times and on certain occasions is both profoundly educational and spiritually invigorating. It is the most direct and positive way to help the young discover their inner selves and begin a lifelong process of growth."

Cardinal Basil Hulme

Prayer is an integral part of our school life at Cheadle Catholic Infant School as an expression of our faithful love for God. It is a recognition of God's presence through word and action. Children should develop their understanding that God is always there for them and that they can pray or speak to him at any time, both formally and informally. As the children move forward on their journey of faith, the opportunities for prayer that they experience in school will enable them to deepen their personal relationship with God as they recognise His presence around them.

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School, we aim to

- create and maintain a stimulating and appropriate environment where prayer can be fostered and developed fully.
- provide children with opportunities to use the language of prayer, (praising, thanking, asking, saying sorry, meditation and quiet reflection) in a meaningful and respectful way.
- teach children traditional and school prayers, introduced gradually from Foundation to Year 2.
- give children opportunities to use/create their own prayer.

The range of opportunities for prayer and reflection in school include:

Daily class prayer within the classroom.

Each school day begins and ends with teacher-led 'Traditional Prayer' and a range of our 'School Prayers'. The teacher, as 'leader of prayer' in this context is both a model and a participant as they guide the children into a prayerful time and space.

Traditional Prayers (From Foundation Stage to Year 2) +See appendix

The sign of the Cross.

The Our Father

The Hail Mary

Glory Be (Year 2 onwards)

Eternal Rest (Year 2 onwards)

Act of Contrition (Year 2 onwards)

School Prayers (From Foundation Stage to Year 2) +See appendix

Morning Prayer

Lunchtime Prayers

End of the school Day prayer/song

Spontaneous prayer

Within RE lessons, there are opportunities for children to articulate and write their own prayers. In addition, each class has their own 'Prayer Book' where the children are encouraged to write and/or draw any intentions they wish to pray for. These are shared with the class if /when a child is happy to do so. Each class has their own focal point for prayer, draped in the liturgical colours of the year, where they can access the class prayer book when needed and a range of religious artefacts (including a class Bible, crucifix, 'buddy', and candle) to stimulate prayer writing.

Expectations for Prayer Composition.

Prayers should be created in a 'prayerful' or 'worshipful' context and generally fall into three categories- 'thank you', 'sorry' and 'please'. They can be linked to the liturgical year, sacramental program, or the topics within the 'Way, Truth and Life' scheme of work. Children are always encouraged to make their prayers as individual as possible whether as part of an RE lesson or when using the class 'Prayer Book'.

All children should know that a prayer begins with 'Dear God/Lord/Jesus/Mary' and ends with 'Amen'.

Foundation Stage children should be able to write/say a sentence using, 'thank you', 'sorry' or 'please'.

Year 1 children should begin to write a series of sentences saying, 'thank you', 'sorry' or 'please'.

Year 2 children should extend their prayer writing further by using more religious language and making links with the traditional prayers that they already know.

Liturgical Prayer

Whole school liturgical prayer.

This can take one of the following forms:

- Led by one of the parish priests with prayers by the children to celebrate specific Holy Days when they occur within the school term e.g. Ash Wednesday, Saint Peter and Paul's day, All Saints Day.
- Led by Headteacher, twice weekly, and supported by members of the Year 2 'Faith Council'. These include reflections on Gospel readings from Mass, seasons of the Church's calendar, relevant PSHE topics, celebration of achievements, birthdays.
- Led by a guest speaker such as a member of CAFOD, 'Mission Together' or the local food bank.
- Led by a designated class of children – 3 classes within a year group each term. Often these have a focus linked to 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' topic the children are studying but can be linked to the church calendar or PSHE topics. Class assemblies develop the children's creativity in planning and presenting celebrations.
* Parents carers, family and friends are also invited to share in the celebration of each Class Assembly on a separate occasion.

Weekly liturgical prayer, (initially planned for and delivered by the class teacher within the classroom).

Class Liturgical Prayer is planned with reference to the liturgical year, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' scheme of work and PSHE/RSE topics and is recorded on a separate planning sheet. These sessions follow the 'Gather', 'Word', 'Response' 'Go Forth' format (See 'Appendix'). Through these shared class experiences, children develop skills that will enable them to work collaboratively to prepare, organise and lead the worship as they move through the school. Each class liturgical prayer session and assembly is evaluated by the class teacher and children are encouraged to play a part in this process knowing that their views are valued and respected.

'Prayer Friend' time.

Each child in Year 2 is matched up with a child in one of the Reception classes to support and encourage the younger members of the school in the development of their faith. These children meet together at points throughout the year to pray and reflect.

Home/School Prayer

To develop prayer life at home, 'The Travelling Crib' and 'The Lenten Cross' are distributed throughout the families in each class on a daily basis in Advent and Lent. During October, the 'Travelling Rosary' is sent home daily.

Members of the school community -parents, carers, governors and priests are invited to further opportunities to celebrate, pray, reflect and sing together with the children, enriching the religious experience of adults and children both individually and communally:

- Class 'Services of the Word', celebrated in the presence of one of the Parish Priests.
- 'Advent Service: 'Carols by Candlelight', led by Year2 and held in one of the parish churches.
- Holy Week/Easter services in school
- Leavers Service of Thanksgiving

Liturgy

In Year 2, children celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Partnerships are encouraged between home, school and parish in line with the Mission Statement and more strongly throughout the Sacramental programme. Parents and carers are encouraged to attend meetings in both school and parish where they are supported in developing their own spiritual understanding and that of their children. In school, teachers follow the 'Making Things Right' workbook which leads the children through the Reconciliation journey.

Lessons are taught in school and activities are completed at home. Every week parents and carers are fully informed of what their child has been taught in school and of the activity to be completed. When fully prepared, the children celebrate this special Sacrament by gathering together for a Service within Parish/Class groups.

Monitoring and Evaluating Prayer and Liturgy

This is a collaborative process. Evidence of Prayer and Liturgy, written and photographic, is kept by class teachers and monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and Headteacher. Staff 'Book Looks' and classroom observations provide opportunities to reflect on the quality of the Prayer and Liturgy within the school whilst ensuring that it meets the needs of the school community.

It is the responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator to attend 'Prayer and Liturgy' diocesan meetings and ensure that staff are aware of any changes to the guidelines that may take place.

Legal requirements

Whilst we acknowledge that 'pupils.... must take part in daily act of Collective Worship, 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.

In line with the whole school policies for special educational needs and equal opportunities, all children receive their entitlement to daily worship.

In this school as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy as part of the 'daily act of worship' rests with the governing body after consultation with the staff.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and is evaluated by the whole staff and governors.

***"Where two or three are gathered in my name,
There I am among them."*** **Matthew 18:20**

Appendix

Traditional Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the father,
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now, and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest
in peace. Amen.

Act of Contrition

O My God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by
the help of your grace, I will not sin again. Amen

School Prayers

Morning Offering

Oh my God, I give to you
All that I think, or say or do.
All my work and all my happy play
I will give to God today. Amen.

Prayer Before Lunch

Father, bless our food we pray
And the people who prepare it
And our friends with whom we share it
Your good gift to us today. Amen

Prayer after Lunch

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you, Lord for everything.
or
Thank you, God for our morning time
Thank you, God for our lunchtime too.
Please help us Lord, this afternoon,
To carry on our good work for you. Amen

Prayer at the end of the school day

Thank you, God for a lovely day.
Thank you for our work and play.
Bless us all as we say, 'Goodnight'
And watch over us until morning is light. Amen
or

Hymn for the end of the school day(sung)

"Now the day is over, we lift our hands and say,
Thank you, Heavenly Father for today.

We're sorry for the wrong things but glad about the right.

Keep us, Heavenly Father, in your love tonight.

Amen.”

School Prayer

Dear God,

Bless our school.

Help us to make it a place of love, joy, kindness and friendship

Where everyone can live happily together

Amen

Class Liturgical Prayer
Planning Sheet

Class:	Leaders	Date
Gather		
Word		
Response to the Word – Prayer/Symbolic Action		
Go Forth - Mission		
What the children thought....		

Ideas for each section

Gather

- Play reflective music as you gather in a circle
- Repeat 'Help me to be a child of the light, as you gather in a circle
- Make the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips and heart – 'May Jesus be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart
- Teacher to light a candle and everyone to say 'This is Jesus, the Light of the World'. Watch the flickering flame and feel the presence of Jesus as you listen to God's Word.

Responses to the Word

- Drop a pebble on a bowl of water remembering the important message of God's Word that you have just heard and saying a silent prayer in your heart
- Pray silently to God about what you feel and what ideas you have after hearing the Word
- Place a stone at the foot of the candle whilst the class prays their own intention in their hearts.

Go Forth – Mission

- Shake hands and offer the sign of peace
- Tell someone in another class what you have prayed about today
- Be an example of Jesus today and show Caritas – help someone in need, share with someone, be kind and patient, look after our world
- Tell your mum/dad you love him/her
- Invite someone who is lonely to play with you at playtime

