2023/2024

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY



The rights of the child in this policy are:

Article 28

You have the right to education.

Article 29

You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

Article 12

You have the right to give your own opinion and for adults to listen to you and take you seriously.

In light of both schools and their separate mission statements, SEND policy, assessment policy, collective worship policy, the staff and governors of The Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Mary's have set the following policy.

Aim of the policy

We aim to help, encourage and show God's way to our families, making sure that our Catholic traditions and faith are kept alive in God's unique family. Each year at school, we learn a little bit more about our faith so that we can grow to love God and each other more.

At our schools, we seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We remember this when putting our policies into practice and living out our mission.

As Catholic educators we are privileged to fulfil the mission Jesus gave us, 'Go out and teach all nations' as we 'Dream it, believe it and achieve it'. We want everyone to experience a close and loving relationship with God as he invites us to 'Live life to the full'

We, as two Catholic schools, set out to encourage spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the individuals in the two different schools, appreciating every child's, parents' and staffs' individual relationship with God and our contemporise within our community and the wider world. The aim is that this is integrated into the whole life of the two individual schools, the whole curriculum and the relationships with other members of God's family around the world through prayer.

The Federation's School Prayer

Let our school be a place,

Where happiness shines from every face,

A place to learn,

A place to share,

To help each other,

And show we care,

God bless our school everyday,

Oh St Cuthbert/St Mary

Hear us pray.

WE AIM TO:

- Live out our mission collectively and individually
- Think about the mystery of God and our relationship with Him
- Respond to and celebrate our achievements and life.
- Emphasis through prayer and worship the Catholic ethos of our school.
- Encourage children of all faiths to express feelings and emotions through independent, group, class and collective worship.
- Help each child to live, grow and contribute through prayer in our school community.

Prayer and Worship

We believe that our prayer and worship celebrate God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in thoughts, feelings, words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. In prayer, we can tell God anything, for he formed us in His image and knows us through and through. Worship in our schools is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition and heritage. It is a powerful way to develop and establish a school's ethos and values. Planned opportunities for high quality worship are an essential part of our school life. Collective worship, individual prayer time and opportunities for reflection at school are provided for all children. The aim is to enrich the religious experiences for both children AND adults in our community.

We believe that prayer and worship should take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

• Those who form part of the worshipping community in church

• Those from whom school may be their first and only experience of church

• Those form other Christian traditions or none

• Those from other faith backgrounds.

We offer:

• Daily prayers at the beginning and end of each day as well as before and after lunch

• Weekly class collective worship

• Weekly whole key stage Collective Worship

• Whole school Masses at the key points in the liturgical year

• Class Masses at church with parents and parishioners attending these masses

• Regular opportunities to sing and praise the Lord in weekly school school singing assembly

• Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar eg Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, October and the Holy Rosary.

Collective Worship - What we do

At The Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Mary's, we hold prayer at the centre of each day. The children are introduced to formal prayers in Early Years and this is carried on throughout the school. We use Lectio Divina (lectio, mediation, oratio, contemplation and actio) supported by TenTen Collective Worship or Pray Together as a basis for this worship. We understand that formal prayers are not the only way to talk to God. Children are encouraged through class prayer and worship times to speak to God in their own hearts by using their own form of prayer and/or reflection. This is done with reverence through sitting and giving time to meditate. In KS2, the children plan and lead the collective worship in pairs on a rota. GIFT team members support the class teacher and younger classes in the school in the delivery of collective worship in the classroom and assembly.

Class Assemblies

Each class assembly has a child's right at the centre which is done through interaction and prayer. Each class has an allocated time to visit the chapel and the peace garden in the school grounds each week. Parents are invited at the start of the school day during the week to have quiet reflection time in the Prayer Garden once they have dropped the children off.

The children are given the opportunities to pray or reflect at various times of the day for different purposes. At all times the children are encouraged to develop a positive self-image and think deeply.

Class Masses

Class masses are held in the church and whole school masses are held at different times both in church and in the school hall. For example, Advent, Lent, beginning and the end of the year and on Holy days of obligation e.g Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day etc. Classes take it in turn to prepare the readings and the offertory procession.

Worship through the curriculum

At key religious times of the year, particularly at Easter and Christmas, the children explore drama and art as a means to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus. Key Stage One and Key Stage Two come together to pray as a whole key stage group and sing in praise of God. Every Friday the whole school come together at a Praise Assembly where the successes of the week are celebrated.

Pupils as leaders

During the course of Key Stage 2, it is expected that the children take more of a leading role in these acts of worship. At least once a month the children will have special times when they reflect on what they have learnt about in their RE lessons and give thanks to God for the blessings that they have received. Each classroom has a focal point for prayer in the form of a prayer table which the children are free to use. Parents are invited to attend to all special occasions in school.

Prayers across school

Prayers are said a minimum of four points of the day:

1. Start of day
2. Before lunch
3. After lunch
4. End of day

As a Catholic school we have the responsibility to teach prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition. It is agreed that children should become familiar with or know the following prayers:

Early Years	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Sign of the cross	Sign of the cross	I confess
Hail Mary	Hail Mary	Eternal rest
Our Father	Our Father	Act of contrition
Morning and Evening prayers	St Cuthbert's/St Mary's School Prayer	The mysteries of the Rosary
Prayers before and after meals	Glory be to the Father	Stations of the Cross
Simple responses at Mass	Morning Offering	Prayers at Mass:
Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)	Grace at Meals	-Penitential Rite
Simple litanies of thanks and praise	Act of Sorrow	-Glory to God (Gloria)
Prayerful reflection on the day	Mass responses	-Offertory prayers
Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath		-Lamb of God
		-Holy holy, holy

Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles		Some simple phrases from the psalms

Evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with our assessment grid based on Come and See RE. The RE Leader and other SLT will monitor work and delivery of the Prayer and Worship in line with the school's monitoring calendar. Prayer and Worship 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 their own personal faith journey. This evaluation will help the RE Leader to focus staff in their means of evaluating and reflecting upon the delivery of prayer and worship and how to move forward in trying or sharing different or new methods to assist and facilitate children in their spiritual and moral growth and development.

Inclusion

The Federation of St. Cuthbert's and St. Mary's is committed to provide a range of activities in Prayer and Worship for all children. Acts of worship/ celebrations will be short and appropriately paced; including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings. All children, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) are integrated and supported in the teaching and learning of RE and Prayer and Worship.

Resources

There are many resources available to support Prayer and Worship. Each class has access to the prayer and worship visual and written materials. Enabling children to experience visual resources and to display such artefacts can make the learning real. The use of music and hymns will add to the prayer and worship experience and atmosphere. Resources are online and artefacts stored centrally. Resources have been purchased to enhance prayer and worship from other faiths.

Sacramental Programme

Schools support the parish in preparation for the Year Three children on their Sacramental Programme Journey. Meetings are arranged to take place to support the children in the delivery of the programme journey, ensuring the children have the knowledge, understanding and spiritual support to enable them to by fully received as Catholics into the Parish of St. Cuthbert's or St. Mary's.

Policy Review:

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE leads of the individual schools, the Executive Headteacher and the governing body every year.

Next Review date: September 2024