

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Reviewed July 2024

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

Live Love Learn

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'
John 10:10

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school is time to give 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. Each day, we take time to gather, listen respond and go forth with a message from the Lord.

The place of Prayer and Liturgy in our school.

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). In our school, daily prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and is central to our Catholic tradition.

Daily Prayer & Liturgy takes into consideration the religious and educational needs of all whom participate:

- Those who are part of a church community
- 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 is a positive experience and a time of reflection when all can contribute and engage.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

The daily act of prayer and liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and to give honour, praise and thanks to Him
- 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 a community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared value
- To develop the skills of: reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Why have Prayer and Liturgy?

Prayer and liturgy provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

At St Elizabeth's prayer and liturgy is a time to:

- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- Reflect on personal belief.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Wonder at.
- Give worth to.
- Take time out.
- Encourage a common ethos and shared values.
- Develop community spirit.
- Enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Build a firm foundation for liturgy.

Prayer and Liturgy - who?

- The Head teacher's role is to ensure that prayer and liturgy is provided for each child each day.
- Pupils must have the opportunity to take part, plan and lead daily prayer and liturgy.
- Teachers plan and enable prayer and liturgy to take place each day.
- Governors approve the Policy statement for Prayer and Liturgy
- Parents can be invited to participate in prayer and liturgy

Where does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

- In the classroom
- In the Spiritual Garden
- In the School Hall
- In Church
- In our Place for Prayer areas

When does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

At St Elizabeth's prayer and liturgy may take place:

- At the beginning of the day.
- At an appropriate time of day according to each class's need as indicated on timetables.

How does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

At St Elizabeth's we realise that every child must have an opportunity to take part in prayer and liturgy every day.

We aim to provide every child with a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors.
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or a short address.
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age, range, backgrounds and ability of pupils.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- Can be offered for a class, year group, a key stage or whole school.
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Respect the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and liturgy.

- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Prayer and Liturgy at St Elizabeth's follows the following liturgical structure:

Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment.

Listen - the Word of God is proclaimed

Respond - the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action

Go Forth - giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

At St Elizabeth's Prayer and Liturgy is planned with reference to the Church's seasons (liturgical calendar), significant dates and the curriculum. It is planned through consultation with appropriate parties and reference to the school's aims and policies. It is planned with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.

Prayer and liturgy is evaluated regularly through observation, monitoring of planning and self-evaluation.

At St Elizabeth's we record prayer and liturgy through displays, prayers, photographs, samples of pupils' work and reflections. Themes, leaders, pupil grouping and resources are recorded on a daily/weekly planner.

Prayer and Liturgy Timetable

Key Stage 1

Friday, 9:10 - 9:20am

Key Stage 2

Monday, 9 - 9:10am

Prayer and Liturgy takes place in class on days not stated.