

St Raphael's Catholic Primary School Worship Policy

“May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together.”

The purpose of this policy for Worship is to assist in the fulfilment of the school's mission statement. It is our aim that each child will reach her/his full potential that will be realised both for the glory of God and the service of others.

This policy is designed to build upon and extend current Religious Education policies.

Worship forms a central role in the life of St Raphael's Catholic Primary School for pupils and for staff.

Children have a natural aptitude for prayer. They are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, anger, disappointment and elation to the world around them. The whole of creation is new to them and their days are full of endless exploration and discovery. Through prayer children develop their personal friendship with God as Creator, Father and friend. Through being introduced to personal prayer in which each child is taught to praise the Father, thank him for his love and gifts, beg His forgiveness when things go wrong and ask for His help and guidance in the events and needs of each day, a deep personal heart to heart relationship is formed with God that will sustain each one of them throughout life.

We recognise that not all children who attend St Raphael's come from families who share our Catholic faith. Some families have not actively chosen Catholic education for their child but have been allocated a place at our school because of local demand. However, spiritual experience is not restricted to those who count themselves as religious believers. Spiritual experience, whether or not derived from our religious tradition, is a key factor in the way in which a person sees the whole of life. This policy for worship at St Raphael's Catholic Primary School, whilst rooted in the Catholic tradition, is fully inclusive of all who are part of our school.

When?

In addition to spontaneous prayer as appropriate, planned daily prayers are said in each class: in the morning, at lunchtime and at home time.

Prayer Experiences

A variety of forms and styles of are introduced:

Prayer Examples;

- Praying the psalms 'I thank you for the wonder of my being' (Psalm 139)
- Traditional prayers Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary
- Mantra (repetitive prayers) ' Jesus, I love you', repeated several times, slowly
- Meditation (Lectio Divina, Ignatian prayer) Scripture reflection with use of imagination
- Gesture Sign of the cross, sign of peace, raising hands in praise, bowing, genuflecting, dancing
- Prayer of the heart Stillness to listen to God: 'Be still and know that I am God.'
- Contemplation Looking at a natural object or an icon
- Hymns Traditional and modern
- Music Listening to reflective, quiet music, sacred music
- Litanies Litanies of thanks, litanies of the saints
- Processions Gospel procession with sung 'alleluia'
- Liturgy Formal and spontaneous prayer included

- Prayer walks Find own space in the playground to pray

Liturgy is the term used to describe the established pattern or form used for public worship within the church. The liturgy of the Catholic Church includes the Mass, the sacraments and other rites and daily prayer. Liturgy celebrates faith using symbols, movement, music and gestures/actions as well as words. By offering the children an established pattern of prayer we give them that which will sustain them, and us, in good times and bad.

The agreed form of liturgy other than Mass is as follows:

Gathering: Opening responses; Opening words; Song; Opening prayer

The Word of God: Invitation; for readings other than the Gospel 'A reading from...' and after the reading 'The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God'; for Gospel readings greet with Alleluia, then 'a reading from the Gospel of Saint...' and after the reading, 'The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ'.

Respond in prayer and action: ritual action (different in each liturgy); intercessory prayer.

Concluding prayer

Blessing

(See SpiritualGarments: Julie Mc Cann)

In the **Early Years Foundation Stage**, the main ask of the teacher is to recognise this for what it is, the beginnings of prayer, and to create and maintain an environment where this is fostered and developed:

- rooms full of colour, sounds, shapes, natural objects, flowers, plants, sand and water
- adults who, themselves, respond in joy and thanks, sorrow and love, to the world around them, to each other and to the children
- through creating a focal point prayer linked to the liturgical season and/or the current The Way, the Truth and the Life RE topic.

At **Key Stage 1** teachers build upon what has begun in the early years and offer an increasing range of prayer experiences, more formal prayers of the church and introduce liturgy. Children begin to plan and lead times of prayer supported by their teachers.

During **Key Stage 2** the range of prayer opportunities increases further and children are given more opportunities for personal prayer, reflection and meditation. They regularly plan, prepare and lead times of class prayer, class liturgy, Key Stage prayer and, by Year 5/6 whole school liturgy.

From the beginning, the children are encouraged to compose their own prayers. Children are inherently good at it, they enjoy it and it helps them to understand that prayer is more than saying prayers.

At St Raphael's we encourage the community, adults and children to pray, through the prayers that we compose ourselves and through the traditional prayers of the church. As teachers, we gather for prayer weekly.

Traditional prayers are introduced to children as follows:

Early Years Foundation Stage:

Sign of the cross

Morning and evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Mass responses: And with your spirit, Thanks be to God

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Simple litanies of thanks and praise

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath

Key Stage 1 All those listed above and:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Morning Offering

Grace at meals

Simple Magnificat

Come Holy Spirit

Act of Sorrow

Prayers at Mass

(Lord have mercy, Prayers of intercession, Children's Eucharistic prayer)

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayer from the Stations of the cross (This is the wood of the cross)

Simple examination of conscience

Eternal rest

Key Stage 2 – all those listed above &:

I confess

Angelus

Benedictus

Magnificat

Act of love

Act of Contrition (short and long)

The Rosary

Stations of the cross

Prayers at Mass:

Penitential Rite

Glory to God

Creed

Offertory Prayers

Eucharistic prayers

Holy, holy

Lamb of God

Rite of dismissal

Litany of the saints

Prayers used for sacramental rites

Funeral Mass prayers (EI)

Blessing and giving of ashes

Saints' prayers e.g St Teresa of Avila,

St Francis of Assisi

Focal points for prayer

The use of images, art, banners, displays, flowers, candles etc all enhance the experience of prayer. Each classroom has a religious area that serves as a focal point for prayer in addition to a display/ working wall linked to the current RE topic. These quality focal points are interactive whenever possible and are changed regularly, with the themes and the colours used reflecting the Church's Liturgical season. Focal points will include a candle which is lit during prayer times, as well as the Word of God, a religious artefact (stored in the Pworsjip box/ underneath the altar in the hall) and living plants/flowers. Children are to be taught to respect their class focal point.

Other faiths

When learning about the prayers of other faiths it is essential that due respect is given and that these prayers are not compared with those of our own faith or used inappropriately.

Planning

Planning for worship is to be included on the timetable. This does not replace the need for those unpredictable, spontaneous worship opportunities that arise unannounced. It does ensure that children have an ever increasing array of prayers, skills and experiences from which to draw when needed.

Assemblies

Once a year each class takes responsibility for preparing and delivering an assembly to which the whole school, parents and friends are invited. These assemblies are linked to the RE topics, seasonal events and celebration of any work done in class.

There is an Early Years Foundation Stage assembly each week as well as a Key Stage 1/Key Stage 2 assembly. Additionally there is a weekly celebration of achievement assembly, 'Award Assembly', which parents and friends are encouraged to attend. These public forms of worship usually take the form of liturgy.

Hymn singing practice ordinarily takes place in Key Stages in order to more closely match the level to the children's age and ability.

Class Liturgy

During the term each class, takes responsibility for preparing a class liturgy. In addition we aim to celebrate Mass as a whole school at least once a term. On holydays Mass is celebrated in school. We begin each academic year with Mass for the staff and

governors.

During Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in each of the Junior classes.

Each Thursday a parish Mass is celebrated in school. A Key Stage 2 class attends this

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mass on a rota basis. The aim of the Mass is for the children to take part within a Mass while not necessarily leading the Mass.

Liturgical seasons

Advent (violet)

Christmas and the Christmas Season (white)

Ordinary Time 1 (green)

Lent (violet)

Triduum and Easter Season (red)

Ordinary Time 2 (green)

Resources

Each class has its own worship box which has a number of resources specifically for that year group. A number of books are kept in the prayer area in the hall to support teachers in the development of the prayer life of their classroom. The number of websites appearing to support prayer in school is increasing. Ensure that these are appropriate by checking with the Headteacher