

Sacred Heart Hindsford R.C. Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Policy written by B. Ditchfield –

RE Leader

September 2019

Accepted by Governors:

J. Carter
S. M. Dermott

signed (chair)

signed (Head)

(Draft until ratified)

Shared with staff: date: October 2019

Reviewed: September 2021.

Mission Statement:

By living out our Catholic faith

TOGETHER

we ENCOURAGE

and ACHIEVE.

I have called you by name.

What is Prayer and Liturgy?

Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power (Religious Education and Prayer and Liturgy Circular 1/94 Department for Education).

Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God.

Prayer is the means by which we are drawn into a deeper and more loving relationship with God and with all of God's creation.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

The daily act of worship aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God and give honour, praise, thanks;
- 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 skills for Prayer and Liturgy including: 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.

Prayer and Liturgy at Sacred Heart

The Worship, which takes place at Sacred Heart, is Prayer and Liturgy. It is central to Catholic Education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. This 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;
- those from other faith backgrounds.

Prayer and Liturgy is an educational activity or experience:

- to which learners can contribute;
- from which learners can gain.

Why have Prayer and Liturgy?

Prayer and Liturgy provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. At Sacred Heart, 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.

Responsibilities for Prayer and Liturgy

- the Headteacher ensures that Prayer and Liturgy is daily;
- teachers plan for and organise Prayer and Liturgy;
- pupils contribute to planning and take part and lead daily Prayer and Liturgy;
- leaders including Governors monitor and evaluate provision;
- parents can be invited to participate in Prayer and Liturgy;
- (parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Prayer and Liturgy).

Where does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

- in the classroom;
- in the Peace Garden;
- in the prayer spaces;
- in the school hall;
- in Church;
- offsite eg. pupils on retreat.

When does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

At Sacred Heart Prayer and Liturgy is timetabled at various times of the day but times can be varied if required. Prayer and Liturgy can happen any time anywhere!

How does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

At Sacred Heart 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 age appropriate worship 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/DVD, excerpts etc...
- 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/ 'gather' and exit/ 'go forth';
- 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 worship.

Prayer and Liturgy at Sacred Heart follows a liturgical structure:

GATHER – how we come together, the setting, the environment

LISTEN/ WORD – 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

Prayer and Liturgy is planned with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and sometimes with links to Come and See topics. It is planned with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.

Themes and pupil leader rotas are recorded by teachers.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and Liturgy is evaluated regularly through observation, monitoring of planning, rotas and self-evaluation by teachers and pupils.

At Sacred Heart we record Prayer and Liturgy through timetables, displays, prayers, photographs, samples of pupils' work and reflections.

Updated: September 2023

Next review: September 2024- to be updated when new mission has been implemented,

