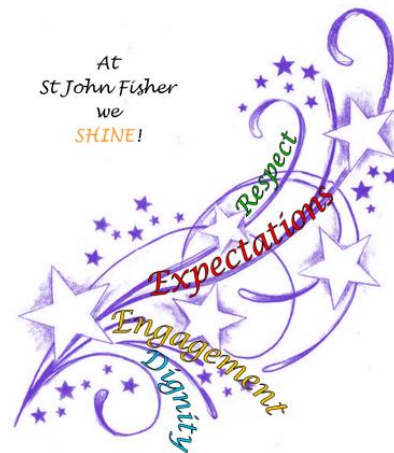


St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



St John Fisher: Our Mission

“Believe in the light, so that you will be children of the light.”
John 12:3

St John Fisher: Our Vision

At St John Fisher, we strive to create a school community where children and adults achieve their full potential and **SHINE!** We will achieve this through *engagement*, *high expectations* and by treating all with *respect* and *dignity*.

By Name:	C. Lewis
Position:	Headteacher
Signature:	<i>C. Lewis</i> on behalf of St John Fisher Catholic Primary School
Date:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2025

Introduction

Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

In our school there are a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy has its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.

Definition of Terms

Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.

In Catholic terminology 'worship' is not generally used to name and describe a distinct type of prayer or event. Worship is about living our lives in a way that recognises that everything we have is a gift from God and that everything we do gives glory to God. That, of course, does include prayer but the scope is broader. With that understanding of worship it will be seen that the purpose of education in a Catholic school is to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of all pupils to the wonder of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow from this.

Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 there is a statutory duty to inspect and report on denominational education (that is religious education) and collective worship in schools designated as having a religious character. For this reason, the term 'Collective Worship' has been kept as the headline judgement by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate but throughout the framework it is referred to as prayer and liturgy. This model policy addresses the shift in vocabulary and is an interim response to the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

***"Believe in the light, so that you will be children of the light."
John 12:3***

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in our school celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving 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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

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. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'Collective Worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School.

Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of our school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy 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 – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All acts of prayer in St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School School will:

Give glory and honour to God;

Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;

Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;

Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Remembrance Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

The Timetable of Prayer and Liturgy/Worship is as below:

Monday	Whole school Prayer and Liturgy
Tuesday	Whole school Worship and Hymns
Wednesday	Whole school Gospel Value Prayer and Liturgy
Thursday	In class Collective Worship
Friday	In class Collective Worship

Leading Prayer and Liturgy

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy. The Deputy Headteacher and members of SLT will plan and lead Gospel Value Prayer and Liturgy. The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy and our music lead, Headteacher and Deputy headteacher will plan Worship and Hymns. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

Recording

Photographs and videos of Prayer and liturgy are recorded on our school R.E. blog and website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and liturgy is monitored by members of SLT. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified, and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

Resources

Each class has access to a Prayer and Liturgy box which contains fabric matched to the Liturgical calendar and various items which can be used for worship tables. Other resources are located in the Prayer and Liturgy unit in the front entrance.

The Learning Environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment.'

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos. Throughout the school there are areas to allow silent prayer and worship.

Retreats

Opportunities to participate in Retreats in the local area are given to children throughout the school year.

Other opportunities

Children from Year 2 to Year 6 attend mass weekly on a rota basis. Events in the Cathedral are attended by school.

Eucharist

Eucharist can be received in Mass weekly.

Leader for Prayer and Liturgy

C. Lewis (Headteacher) is responsible for leading Prayer and Liturgy. The role is attached to the bottom of this policy.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular, will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Leader for Prayer and Liturgy

Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy

Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan.

Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils.

Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children.'

Organising themes for prayer times.

Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Prayer and Liturgy/Collective Worship.

Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating.

Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation

Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback

Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

Communication

Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy.

Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development.

Acting as consultant to colleagues.

Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.

Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy.

Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community.

Liaison with the school chaplain.

Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education.

Professional development/Ongoing formation.

Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy.

Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training.

Keeping up to date by personal reading.

Resources

Evaluating existing resources

Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

Budgeting efficiently.