



THE FEDERATION OF ST. EDMUND'S AND ST. PATRICK'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

We come to a Roman Catholic School and so believe that Jesus was born, died and rose again for everyone. We aim to help, encourage and show God's way to our families, making sure that our Catholic traditions and faith are kept alive. 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. Therefore this policy will reflect the Catholic identity and mission of our schools and the values it proclaims.

INTRODUCTION

At St. Edmund's and St. Patrick's, we seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We remember this when putting our policies into practice. The governors and staff aim to make the schools a safe place where the Gospel values of Our Lord Jesus Christ are taught, lived and experienced, where prayer and celebration are integral to life and where religious growth and development are stimulated within the total curriculum. 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'.

ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL PRAYER

Jesus, Jesus, live in me, so that everything I do is done by you.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL PRAYER

Christ be beside me, and in the hearts of those who love me.

THEREFORE, WE AIM TO:

- Live out our mission
- Think about the mystery of God and our relationship with Him
- Respond to and celebrate our achievements and life.
- Emphasis through prayer 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 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 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 from

Foundation Stage to Year 6. Key Stage and class levels enrich the religious experiences of both children and adults in our community, and are supported by school and diocesan guidelines.

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 from 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 as part of our RE curriculum
- Weekly whole school assemblies
- Whole school Masses at the start and end of each term and on Holy days
- Nursery –Year 6 Masses on a rota basis. Parents and parishioners enjoy attending these masses
 - Regular opportunities to sing and praise the Lord
- Additional services linked to the liturgical calendar eg Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, October and the Holy Rosary.

WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: (ASSEMBLIES)

Monday: Themed Assembly based on Anam Cara's 'Statements to live by' - whole school

Friday: Celebration Assembly - whole school

It is acknowledged that prayer and worship and assembly are two distinctive activities, but they may sometimes form part of the same gathering

CELEBRATING MASS

Mass is held regularly at either St. Patrick's church or the school hall at St. Edmund's. Two classes come together to celebrate. One class leads the Mass with the readings and prayers. The children bring the scripture to life in a variety of ways, through specially chosen music and prayers and sometimes by acting out bible stories when appropriate. Parents and parishioners attend this Mass. 'Whole School Masses' are celebrated at other important times in the Liturgical year or when we have a special celebration wherever possible. For example, patron feast days, start and end of the school year/term, Ash Wednesday, Ss. Peter & Paul, All Souls, Leavers' Mass, end of the school year.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Other special assemblies take place throughout the year; Harvest Assemblies, A Remembrance Service in November, Caritas in Action, Nativity plays, Advent, Carols around the crib, Lenten assemblies, Holy Week and Stations of the cross. These assemblies have a prayer focus and are sometimes led by the Headteacher, class groups, teachers and pupils.

We will foster through daily prayer our personal relationship with God our Father. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Daily prayers • Prayers of silence
- Spontaneous prayers

- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayers

Daily prayers will be said:

- At the start of the day
- Before lunch
- After lunch
- At home time
- When appropriate at other times

Prayers should be:

- Personal - Children should be allowed to pray on their own and in silence. Children will be encouraged to pray from the heart and develop reverence, spirituality and a relationship of extraordinary respect with God and each other
- Common, so said within classes, as a school, liturgies
- Traditional, modern, spontaneous, through songs, drama or liturgies

Classes should contain a focal point for prayer and worship. This can be as a holy area which may be made up of Bibles, prayer books, books containing stories from our faith, candles, artefacts and children's work.

Children will be given positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be appropriate in content and length to the age and experience of the of the children;
- be appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

TRADITIONAL PRAYERS:

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:

<u>FOUNDATION STAGE</u>	<u>KEY STAGE 1</u>	<u>KEY STAGE 2</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Sign of the cross☐ Hail Mary☐ Our Father☐ Morning and Evening prayers☐ Prayers before and after meals☐ Simple responses at Mass☐ Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)☐ Simple litanies of thanks and praise☐ Prayerful reflection on the day☐ Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath☐ Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Sign of the cross☐ Hail Mary☐ Our Father☐ St Malachy's School Prayer☐ Glory be to the Father☐ Morning Offering☐ Grace at Meals☐ Act of Sorrow☐ Mass responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ I confess☐ Angelus☐ Eternal rest☐ Act of contrition☐ The mysteries of the Rosary☐ Stations of the Cross☐ Prayers at Mass:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Penitential Rite-Glory to God (Gloria)-Offertory prayers-Lamb of God-Holy holy, holy☐ Some simple phrases from the psalms

PLANNING

Planning for Prayer and Worship will be recorded on the Prayer and Worship planning document. It may be relevant to that week's 'Statement to live by', Come and see programme of study for a particular year group, the Church's liturgical calendar, a spiritual opportunity for reflection, current/global theme (recognising and being sensitive to the diversity of faiths and cultures within classes and as a school) which would aim to broaden the children's understanding and awareness of issues and offer a very reflective experience.

Within planning there will be reference made to provision that is in place to support children with our target/vulnerable groups in school and differentiated accordingly.

Chaplains serve our community well and provide opportunities for prayer and reflection two mornings and one lunchtime a week, and at different times of the year various playtimes too, eg The Rosary- May and October.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be carried out in accordance with the Diocese Assessment Grid: Progression in reflection and contemplation. The RE Leader and other SLT will monitor work and delivery of the Prayer and Worship. 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 organising and leading worship.

Assessment will be recorded as part of the RE Assessment procedure in school, where children complete the prepared Assessment activity covering a range of AT1 (Attainment Target 1) and AT2 (Attainment Target 2) Assessment strands. This means of assessment 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. Edmund's and St. Patrick'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 reflective music will add to the prayer and worship experience and atmosphere. Resources are stored centrally. Resources have been purchased to enhance prayer and worship from other faiths.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

School support the parish in preparation for the Year Three children on their Sacramental Programme Journey. Meetings are arranged to take place at after school and Catechists (volunteer staff from school) attend 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 be fully received as Catholics into the Parish of St. Patrick's.