



All Saints

Catholic Primary School
Anfield

A policy for Prayer and Liturgy

“In the light of God, we shine on our
own but shine brighter together”

September 2023

AIMS

Prayer and Liturgy within All Saints Primary school offers opportunities:

- to consider and celebrate our Gospel values of holiness, faithfulness, dignity, gentleness, peace, truth and service.
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- to experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself.
- to encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community.
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation.
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community.
- to develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning.
- to explore social, moral and spiritual values.

PRINCIPLES

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy should be:

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils.
- designed to actively engage pupils and elicit a response.
- resourced and planned.
- memorable and enjoyable.
- an educational activity.
- a sense of occasion.
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions.

COORDINATION

R.E. co-coordinator organises the Prayer and Liturgy programme, establishing a pattern of themes for each week of the school year and creating a rota for production of the support materials for classroom prayer. It is appropriate for the Headteacher, deputy Headteacher to link weekly assemblies to the current theme.

ORGANISATION

Assembly

Key Stage assemblies are weekly with KS1 assemblies being held on Friday afternoon and KS2 assemblies being held on Monday morning. Hymn practice is every Friday morning for KS2. Whole School assemblies are held for special times throughout the year. The Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher delivers these assemblies, usually taking the theme allocated for the week. It is an opportunity to celebrate pupils who contribute to the achievements of the school by congratulating children, awarding Star of the Week certificates, attendance certificates etc. Any moral and social issues are also addressed in this assembly. Within each assembly there is a clear distinction made between the worship and practical aspects of the assembly.

The Monday and Friday assembly is an opportunity for classes to lead the assembly focusing on an aspect of their work with a Prayer and Liturgy element.

Masses

The children at All Saints are invited to join the parish in celebrating mass throughout the autumn term. The RE Co-ordinator and Parish Priest prepare the mass, with the children taking an active part in the mass. Mass is also celebrated by the whole school on significant feast days (e.g. All Saints Day), ADVENT and LENT. The RE Co. plans the prayers of the faithful and hymns for this mass, which are delivered by children.

Class Worship

On those days when pupils do not have an assembly the class teacher leads a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week. This act of worship takes place for approximately the number of minutes equivalent to age (e.g. 6 year olds = 6 minutes) at a time appropriate for each class. These times are not prescriptive across year groups or Key Stages.

The same scripture is used throughout the week but used with a different focus each day linking to family and home, school life, the local community and the global community.

Weekly themes

At the start of each year a plan of themes for the year are established. These themes link with the liturgical year of the church and explore major gospel and life themes, festivals, beliefs and charity events.

It should be noted that there will be times when the theme is wholly inappropriate - times of celebration or of disaster or tragedy should be explored in worship as they arise.

Class Prayer

Every week each class teacher will receive a number of ideas linked with the given theme. These will be prepared on a rota basis by each member of staff, and should help support the class teacher with prayer and liturgy. These sheets are not intended to be prescriptive. Ideally they should be used as a source of ideas or as a framework on which to develop worship that is appropriate and relevant to the particular teacher and class.

Ideas are prepared for both Key Stages.

Each sheet follows the same general format:

- A prayer for the week
- Relevant reading from scriptures
- A choice of input and ideas - these may be further prayers, a story, suggested pieces of music, an activity or a focus for display.

Prayer Table

A special area is set-aside in each classroom. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. A special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artifact may be used as a centering object during prayer.

Resources

Each class teacher is provided with a copy of 'God's Story Revised Edition'. In addition, there is a collection of stories, readings and prayers that will be a source of ideas for class teachers in the school within the Prayer and Liturgy section in the prayer room.

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies, in the Rejoice section of Come and See and in class groups.

There is clear progression children's involvement throughout the school and there is consistency of the teacher always modelling and leading and therefore supporting children in preparing and beginning to lead in parts of the worship. Our young leaders in the Faith in Action group have started leading worship in younger year groups. Again with guidance and support from the class teacher.

Recording and Evaluation

Class teachers collate weekly evidence of Worship in a Prayer, Liturgy and Celebration book. This also includes evidence from the Rejoice section of Come and See. As well as reviews being held throughout the year, staff are also asked to complete a yearly review sheet on prayer and worship. Pupils will be encouraged to give their input and comments. The SDP and SED for R.E. will be updated accordingly.

Conclusion

Prayer and worship is central to Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of Worship that are relevant, appropriate and life giving.

To be reviewed:
September 2024