



St Jude's Catholic Primary School

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

We live, love and learn together joyfully in Jesus' name.

Aims of prayer and liturgy

At St Jude's School, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. We aim to be a living, loving and sacramental community which is inspired by the life of Christ and the teachings of the Church, rooted in Gospel values. We hope that from the minute you enter our school you clearly see and feel that we are a Catholic community.

Acts of worship may take place at any time during the day. It may take the form of a single act of worship with the whole school community or separate acts of worship in school/class groups.

Prayer and Liturgy in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships, as Christian values permeate all aspects of school life and all relationships. It is a way of deepening our relationship with God together and individually.

We aim to:

- To develop an awareness and understanding of the presence of God in each individual child's life and to encourage a personal response to that presence
- To allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on commitment to following Christ
- To offer opportunities to deepen their faith and foster attitudes of care and respect for each other
- To live, experience and understand the Liturgical life of the Church through the Liturgical Year together with Solemnities and Feast days
- To promote sacramental life of Christian families and to encourage parents to take an active part in the preparation of their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation
- To foster school-parish links to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith experiencing liturgy and worship beyond and realms of the school curriculum
- To enable each child to participate and respond to liturgy and worship

Understanding of the Liturgical Calendar

We ensure that pupils are aware of the Liturgical Calendar and key events in the Church. The symbolism of colours is made clear from the earliest days in our school: purple for penance (seen during Advent and Lent), red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom (seen at Pentecost), white, gold for important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Each month of the year has a special focus and we aim to reflect upon this in school:

January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus.

February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

March is a month devoted to St. Joseph.

April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit.

May is the month when Mary is especially remembered.

June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember especially the great love Jesus has for us.

July is the month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Our Lord; the Feast of the Precious Blood is the first Sunday of the month.

August is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, and increased adoration of the Eucharist is encouraged.

September is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Angels.

October is the month of the Rosary.

November is the month when the Holy Souls (the deceased) are prayed for.

December is dedicated to Advent and the coming of Christ.

We ensure that special foci and feast days are included in our collective worship theme of the week. A display in our entrance reflects the Church's current season and is changed regularly by different year groups.

About Prayer & Liturgy

A daily act of collective worship is central to the Christ-centred ethos and mission of our school. Worship in our school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. Each act of worship follows the four-fold action of Gathering, hearing God's Word, Responding to the Word and being sent forward with a Mission based on the worship we have participated in.

Our Prayer & Liturgy takes many different forms:

- We gather together as a school community for whole school collective worship on a Monday. On a Monday, worship is led by Mrs Smith based on the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. This is a theme we will have encountered at church on Sunday.
- On Tuesday we have our school Mass at St Jude's Catholic Church with Father Philip or Father John. Children play an active part in each Mass, through reading, praying, singing, altar serving and taking part in offertory processions. Each class takes it in turn to lead and prepare the celebration based on the liturgical year, focusing on solemnities, feast days and memorials of saints important to the children. Readings and hymns are planned and recorded in advance after discussion with the parish priest.
- On Tuesday, we have our 'Hymns of Praise' where we gather together to practise or learn new hymns based on the theme for that week. We love to sing here at St. Jude's!
- On Thursday, class collective worship is held and range from a variety of themes such as a particular Bible story; a feast day, it could be based on a word, such as 'friendship' or 'compassion'. It could be linked to the Values and Virtues or to a Catholic Social Teaching

theme. Classes also deliver assemblies linked to these themes and parents are invited to join us for these.

- On the last Friday of the month, we come together to celebrate our achievements and successes in our 'Gifts from God' assembly.
- Each classroom has a dedicated prayer area where the class prays at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Pupils are given the responsibility of planning, delivering and evaluating acts of Collective Worship. The expectation is that this takes place in every class, every term. Liturgy leaders plan and organise at other times throughout the year.

Legal Requirements

Prayer and Liturgy is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which states: 'Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Parents do have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of prayer and liturgy. Guidance for this is provided by the Catholic Education Service, not the school.

Monitoring

The Headteacher is responsible for the monitoring of prayer and liturgy. She will involve other members of staff on a regular basis for their own professional development. Pupils will also be timetables to participate.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At St. Jude's, we ensure that liturgy and prayer is inclusive to all members of the school community. Pupils with SEND are supported and encouraged to participate fully in all everything.

Health & Safety

As part of prayer and worship, we do light candles which can be a health and safety risk. We never allow children to do this unless supervised and pupils are never left in close proximity to a lit flame. Staff are advised to be careful to blow candles out in classrooms promptly after an RE lesson or a prayer service.

Adopted by Governing Body: 30/06/22

Review date: Summer 2025