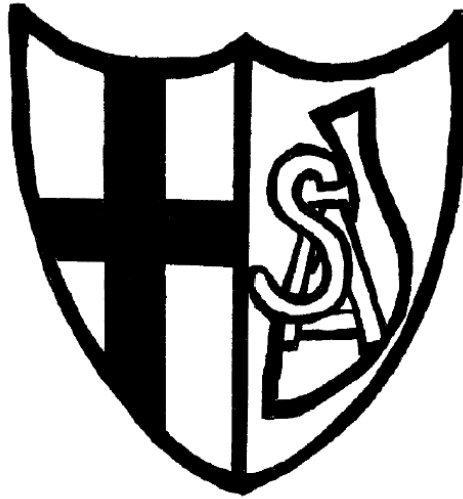


St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School



“The more I learn about the world in which I live,
the closer I grow to God.”

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Author: RE Subject Leader

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Next Review: Autumn 2023

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

September 2022

Mission Statement

“The more I learn about the world in which I live, the closer I grow to God”

We are a loving learning community committed to putting gospel values at the centre of all that we do. In our school all children are welcomed and nurtured within a partnership of support between school, home and parish so that each may become the person they were created to be. We celebrate and value the uniqueness of the individual and aim to find the gift in each child. We believe childhood lasts a lifetime and that each child is *“created in the image and likeness of God.” - Genesis 1:27*

Values and Aims

At St Albert the Great, it is our belief that worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Worship plays an important part in our school. Prayer takes place throughout the day as quiet reflection. It can be a response to something wonderful or sad (e.g. seeing a rainbow, hearing of a death), as whole-school worship and also as planned sessions that are led by either the children or the teacher. Worship takes place daily.

Through our worship, we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs;
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings;
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school;
- Respond freely to spiritual stimulus;
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life as well as all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage children to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community;
- Celebrate special occasions together;
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world;
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school;
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society;
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Acts of Worship

School Worship and Liturgy Timetable

Monday	Whole school worship linked to Sunday's Gospel led by our Headteacher/Head of School
Tuesday	Whole school worship linked to our Gospel Value for the week led by a class teacher
Wednesday	In class Child Led Worship (supported by Friends in Faith in EYFS and KS1)
Thursday	In class Christian Meditation
Friday	Sharing assembly - including an act of worship

Prayer

The children offer their day to God each morning with the school Morning Prayer and at the end of the day with an Afternoon Prayer. In addition, they say a prayer before lunch each day. They learn that prayer is not always formal and can be an informal 'talking to God'. Teachers model how to say a prayer in response to a request regarding a specific intention. Children are encouraged to say or write their own prayers. Sometimes children's prayers are recorded in their books or made into a class book.

Our children designed a prayer garden in a previously underutilised space. This space is now peaceful and our children use it for quiet moments of prayer and reflection.

Whole School Worship and Liturgy

Whole school worship and liturgy takes place three times a week.

Children are given time for prayer and silent reflection. Opportunities for reflection are provided before and after worship as children enter and leave the hall to appropriate instrumental music.

Whole school worship and liturgy involves children as active participants. Themes may relate to the Liturgical Year, the lives of Saints, topical news, charities or PSHE matters.

Mass is celebrated in school at least four times a year:

- Start of new academic year
- St Albert's Feast Day
- First Holy Communion Mass
- Year 6 Leavers

In addition, each class celebrates Mass at Our Lady's Queen of All Creation Church at least once every term.

The whole school also celebrates Mass on Holy Days of Obligation that fall during term time

Each child is involved in a Christmas performance. EYFS and KS1 take part in a Nativity which re-tells the story of Christmas and its importance today. KS2 take part in a Carol Concert during which they sing traditional hymns and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas. Classroom learning is reinforced through the use of the Christmas production songs and the inclusion of traditional carols.

During Holy Week, our school community gathers to reflect as the children share the journey of Holy Week and the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday.

In the month of October, we celebrate the Virgin Mary during class worship and liturgy. In May, the whole school are involved in celebrating the Virgin Mary during our May Devotion service.

Parents and carers are invited to join their children in whole school worship and liturgy throughout the school year.

Our children are actively involved in leading worship and liturgy at school where they come together to share the word of God. For example, we celebrate new beginnings, Remembrance Day, the beginning of Advent and Lent and the months of Mary.

School Chaplaincy – The Friends in Faith

Our school chaplaincy team, known as *The Friends in Faith*, actively encourage pupils to join in and lead prayer and liturgy with confidence. The Friends in Faith are our school's spiritual leaders. Their role in school includes, leading the children in spiritual faith, encouraging children to apply what they have learnt from the Bible's teachings into everyday practice and developing good relationships within both the school and wider community.

The roles of The Friends in Faith include:

- Setting up for Liturgy, Prayer and Worship;
- Leading and modelling Child Led Worship;
- Leading prayers in class;
- Leading whole school Liturgies (once a half term);
- Facilitating the daily use of the Prayer Garden where possible.

Class worship

Prayer and liturgy take place daily; in classes, in phases and as a whole school.

When there is no whole school worship or liturgy, children engage in an act of liturgy and prayer in their individual classes. This can be in the form of readings, reflections, prayer or singing, dependent on the age of the class. At times, classes may choose to celebrate in our beautiful outdoor areas.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visiting speakers such as representatives from the Catholic Children's Society.

Roles and Responsibilities

The shared role of the Headteacher and RE Leader is to:

- provide a strategic lead and direction for Prayer and Liturgy;
- support and offer advice to colleagues on issues related to Prayer and Liturgy;
- provide efficient resource management for Prayer and Liturgy;
- ensure that there is a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy, either whole school or in class;
- ensure the Prayer and Liturgy policy is reviewed and updated in line with the school's cycle of policy review;
- review the CSED sections relating to Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship of the school annually.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.