

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary **School, Windermere**

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



School Mission Statement

'Help one another. This is what we do with all our hearts.'

Our mission statement was created by the children in our school in 2016 and is revised annually by the children. At St Cuthbert's prayer and liturgy are implicit in our mission statement as a Catholic school. Prayer and the opportunity to encounter God through listening and responding to His Word is fundamental to the life of the school and as such will take place daily in class at an age appropriate level. We aim to encourage our children to respond and live their faith in daily living and to develop good relationships within and beyond the school community.

In praying and listening to the Liturgy, children and adults will be responding in different ways and at different levels; some will be "at the threshold", interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of praying may be a time of real communion with God. In our daily listening to the Word of God and response in prayer and action we aim to provide a setting where the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

Aims of prayer and liturgy

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour
- To help children discover their place in the world
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery – such as pictures, statues, crosses, rosary beads, etc
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate dates in the liturgical calendar
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these
- To support the search of meaning
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- To establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, tolerance and compassion

- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school, through a sharing of experiences and feelings
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Catholic framework
- To promote and celebrate the partnership between home, school and parish

We recognise the role of collective worship within school and assemblies. Collective worship can:

- be a time to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- develop personal relationships and encourage social development
- provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly Our Lady of Windermere & St Herbert's
- include graces (morning, lunchtime and home time)
- often be more valuable and appropriate in assemblies and tends to focus on themes, drama, information, etc
- take place in different places, eg, class, Church, outside

Implementation

Our school community attends whole school prayer and school masses which happen on specific feast celebrations. Parents, parishioners and other members of the school community are invited to join these celebrations.

Children are also invited to Family Masses which take place at Church at different liturgical times during the year, eg, Harvest and Advent.

Prayer and liturgy in the classrooms is encouraged by use of a reflective corner/holy table.

Praying as a staff is a frequent event, eg, at weekly gathering, at staff and governors' meetings. There is also the weekly Gospel displayed in the staff room for staff to read and engage with.

At Key Stage 1 prayer and worship includes:

- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer (Morning and end of day, Grace before meals, candle prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, prayers from the mass)
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in prayer and liturgy

At Key Stage 2 prayer and liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; and/or the Penitential Rite; and/or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the celebration of sacramental liturgies

