

# Prayer and Liturgy Policy

## St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Approved by:

Date: January 2023

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by:

At St. Bernadette's, prayer and liturgy is Catholic in nature and reflects the traditions of our church, with Christ at its heart.

## **Aims**

Prayer and liturgy at St. Bernadette's aims to:

- Provide daily opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to worship God
- Provide opportunity to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Encourage participation, response and active involvement in the planning and presentation of worship
- Allow people to explore their own beliefs
- Develop a sense of community and belonging
- Promote a sense of shared values and encourage a common ethos
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- Enrich the religious experiences of pupils and staff

## **Principles**

The following principles guide our practice at St. Bernadette's:

- Prayer and liturgy is inclusive. It is an activity and experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- It provides opportunity to give glory and honour to God.
- Prayer and liturgy is fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic nature.
- It provides opportunities to: celebrate, share, reflect and take part in a social gathering which may include the wider community.
- Children will be offered liturgical experiences appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background
- Prayer and liturgy should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils by using such elements as: hymns, readings, speech, silence, prayer, reflection, music and drama
- It can evoke those senses and feelings from which worship most naturally arises including: a sense of beauty, a sense of wonder and awe, a feeling of pride, a sense of empathy, a sense of peace, a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves

## **Organisation**

- We hold daily acts of Prayer and Liturgy in our school either as a class, key stage or whole school community.
- This is timed and paced appropriately for the age group of the children (5-6 minutes for EYFS and KS1 and 7-10 minutes for KS2).
- In KS2, pupils are encouraged to take an increasing responsibility to plan and deliver prayer and liturgy, incorporating the principles of Prepare, Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth.

- In EYFS and KS1, the teachers provide appropriate prayer and liturgy, involving the children in preparation and delivery where possible.
- Where appropriate, the correct liturgical colours are used on the focus table, or during prayer and liturgy, to help pupils develop a knowledge of these
- Themes for prayer and liturgy are taken from the Wednesday Word, Come and See, CAFOD, Ten:Ten, the Liturgical year and topical events
- Our weekly praise assembly reflects the achievements of the children during the week, both in and out of school. Within this assembly, time is given for reflection and thanksgiving for the previous week. The ethos and expectations of the school are emphasised during this assembly, demonstrating that all children are valued and achievements are recognised.
- Each class prepares two class assemblies each year, which parents are invited to share with us.
- The hall and each classroom has a focus area for collective worship.

### **School weekly timetable for collective worship:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Led by..</b>
Monday	Whole school	Member of SLT
Tuesday	Classes	Class teacher and/or pupils
Wednesday	Whole school	Member of SLT
Thursday	Classes	Class teacher and/or pupils
Friday	Whole school	Member of SLT
<i>Daily prayers also take place at the start and end of the school day, and at lunch time.</i>		
<i>Once a term, each KS2 class attends mass at St. Bernadette's church.</i>		

### **GIFT Team**

St. Bernadette's GIFT Team (Growing In Faith Together Team) is a service team that consists of 5 children from Year 5. The team work together to share the teachings of Jesus through their actions. The GIFT Team are involved in planning and delivering prayer and liturgy throughout the school, helping to organise charity events and working with other service groups from our cluster schools.