

St Austin's Catholic Primary School



Prayer & Liturgy Policy

Autumn (1) 2022

Policy agreed by the Full Governing Body of St Austin's Primary School:

On:18th October 2022..... **Signed:**..... *A Hay Davis*
(Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed:.....Autumn (1) 2024.....

"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"

"En nuestro colegio todos somos especiales.
Amaremos y serviremos como Jesús nos enseñó"

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SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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To work is to pray

AIM

To enable children, staff and visitors to St. Austin's Catholic Primary School, to have the opportunity to take part in Prayer and liturgy and have time to reflect. To enable and encourage a sense of belonging.

OBJECTIVES

The children will:

Become aware of reflection and the need for a calm reflective atmosphere. This will develop a valuable skill for life.

Develop their own skills of prayer both in thought and aloud.

Be encouraged to create personal prayers and join in with traditional prayers.

Appreciate that we are coming together to pray, to worship and respect each other's needs.

Experience that prayer is related to life and living.

Experience the appropriate ways to pray when collectively together.

Experience that prayer enables us to communicate with God by listening, speaking, reflecting and resting.

Experience the feeling of reassurance that prayer can provide.

WHERE

Prayer and liturgy takes place in classrooms, the hall, the outside classroom or school grounds, weather permitting.

WHEN

Prayer and liturgy takes place each day for approximately five/ten minutes. It is timetabled but also has a flexibility to meet children's needs/worries as well as local/national issues. e.g. environmental disasters. The children are invited to pray or reflect or both.

FOCAL POINTS

Each teacher develops with the children an area of focus to look at when praying. PowerPoints are used as a resource for Prayer and liturgy.

RESOURCES

Music, focal points, prayer tables, candles, stories and children's prayers, PPTs, Come and See website, 'God's Story', 'Church's Story', CAFOD website, Mission together website, Prayer and liturgy box and information - provided by Marie Connolly.

PLANNING

Prayer and liturgy is planned in relation to the Prayer and liturgy termly planner, current 'Come and See' topic, current news, local, national and world issues, suggestions from all involved. Prayer and liturgy has four sections:

Gather
Listen
Respond
Go Forth

WHEN

Prayer and liturgy takes place each day.

ASSEMBLIES/CELEBRATIONS

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have two assemblies each week during which the opportunity is taken to reflect upon the 'Come and See' topic and to celebrate children's work/behaviour. Deacon Paul our school chaplain attends the KS1 and KS2 assemblies.

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER AND LITURGY

When - children are to be given the opportunity to take part in Prayer and liturgy each day and are encouraged to be involved with the planning process.

Where - Prayer and liturgy can take place anywhere as long as the atmosphere created is appropriate. Sitting on the grass in a circle, on a sunny day may be the perfect place at the right time. Sitting together on the carpet in the classroom, may be the right place another time. The important thing is to create a change from what the children do for the rest of the day.

How - Always create an atmosphere which is calm. This can be achieved by the music, story, pictures and having a focal point. The simplest can sometimes be the best - a leaf, a photograph, a candle, or a song (singing together).

Time - keep the time short and meaningful.

Planning - Always plan your Prayer and liturgy before hand, choosing an appropriate prayer and place. Follow the whole school theme weekly timetable. Vary the content, be selective, be flexible to change if the children bring their own thoughts/ideas un-expectantly. We have a staff weekly Prayer and liturgy planning rota. Planning is available and emailed by the teacher on the rota that week to staff.

Traditional prayers

Prayers in Spanish

Mission statement

Mission statement in Spanish

Modern prayers

The children's own prayers

Readings

Poetry

Music- traditional and modern. The words make beautiful prayers.

Current events.

Prayer and liturgy prompt cards

"Come and See" suggests prayers in every topic, and gives guidelines for appropriate age levels.

We hope Prayer and liturgy is meaningful to all who take part, is celebratory and sensitive. It is an opportunity for us to Collectively Worship and rejoice. It is an opportunity for us to 'be still' and in thought together and a time for peace and calm, which is invaluable to our children and staff.