



Policy for the Prayer Life of the School

'Ensuring an excellent, child- centred education within a Christ centred philosophy'

Introduction

At St Francis' Catholic Primary School we aim to provide an environment which contributes to developing the prayer life of all members of the community. We will ensure that children experience a range of meaningful prayer, worship and liturgy and that all within the school community have opportunities to grow in the development of faith.

Aims

At St Francis' we aim to:

- Nurture each child's relationship with God, building on the foundations laid by the family and the parish communities.
- Encourage in pupils the desire to engage in personal prayer.
- Ensure that all children are aware of the religious, spiritual and moral values the school has as part of its Mission to help children understand their role within the Christian family.
- That all prayer is inclusive of the whole school community.
- Build on children's own experiences and value what each has to offer.
- Develop children's natural sense of awe and wonder.
- Introduce children to the key events of the liturgical year and the Church's seasons.
- Help to foster a sense of community.
- Celebrate successes and achievements of individuals and groups.
- Develop and encourage collaboration and team work.
- Develop skills of leadership in children.
- Ensure there are opportunities for staff to deepen their own understanding of prayer.
- Develop an understanding in children that their prayer experience in school can be used outside the school environment.
- Help children understand and be able to take part in all liturgies of their parish and school.
- Encourage parents to share in the prayer life of the school.

Guidelines

- Provide prayer opportunities that take into account the needs, ages and stages of development of all children.
 - Provide a range of formal, informal and spontaneous prayer in a way that takes into account the needs of all children.
 - Enable all children to have opportunities to plan assemblies, reflections, liturgy and prayer.
 - Enable all children the opportunity to prepare for and take an active part in masses, assemblies, prayer and reconciliation in a variety of settings to include whole school, class, key stage, parish and other Catholic schools.
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- Ensure there are opportunities for individual prayer and reflection, to include retreat times for older pupils.
- Plan opportunities for children to write and share their own prayers.

- Ensure that there are opportunities for prayer and reflection in all areas of the curriculum.
- Ensure there are prayer corners within all classrooms that children contribute to and make use of.
- Use a range of religious artefacts to support the prayer life of the school.
- Provide opportunities for children to access the prayer cultures of other Christian and world faiths.
- Invite the clergy and other faith leaders to contribute to the prayer life of the school.
- Make use of formal, school and class prayer books to support prayer.
- Offer opportunities for children to take an active part in the life of the parishes.
- Provide opportunities for pupils, staff, parents, governors and parishioners to come together to celebrate mass and other liturgies at various time of the year.
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the prayer life of the school.
- Provide opportunities for staff and governors to engage in prayer that includes retreat, together.
- Monitor the prayer life of the school taking into account the views of pupils and adults.

Conclusion

Through being offered opportunities for prayer and reflection in all aspects of school life, pupils and all other members of the school community will be able to deepen their understanding of the value of prayer. In this way the development of spirituality will be a core part of the life of St Francis' Catholic Primary School.
