

St Bernard's Primary School

Prayer & Liturgy Policy



St Bernard's Primary School
Approved by Governors: Autumn 2023
Review date: Summer 2025

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Our Mission

‘To grow, love and learn following Jesus’

At St Bernard’s, we believe that Christian worship in a Catholic environment celebrates Christ at the centre of our lives. We are a community that values and celebrates our faith through Collective Worship, prayer, reflection and liturgy. We recognise the power of the Holy Spirit working through us to develop the faith of all members of our community.

At St Bernard’s we aim to provide Collective Worship that will support the living of our daily mission: **‘To grow, love and learn following Jesus’**.

Prayer at St Bernard’s is a celebratory experience where we Gather, Listen (to the Word of God), Respond (through reflection) and Go Forth (apply our learning).

Prayer & Liturgy should:

- Reflect and shape the core values of St Bernard’s.
- Give children a range of experience that will develop understanding of different styles of prayer and worship.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Provide an opportunity for all to prepare, participate and respond.

Facilitation

Consistent opportunities for prayer for students and staff are provided through:

- Staff Briefings and meetings.
- Whole school Worship during assemblies
- Individual class Collective Worship – Daily.
- The extended celebration of the major feasts in the Church year: Advent & Christmas and Lent & Easter.
- Recognition of other important events in the Church’s calendar: All Saints/Souls, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter.
- Easter Liturgies.
- Stay and Pray for parents to participate in class prayer sessions.

Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer

Prayer and Celebration of the Word is an essential part of our Catholic life at St Bernard’s. It starts as soon as children join us from the age of two in our Nursery. We recognise that not all staff are practising Catholics and leaders work with all school staff

to ensure they have a strong understanding of the importance of prayer in our daily lives as well as knowing how to plan and deliver prayer effectively. We have a strong culture of continuous improvement at St Bernard's. From this, staff collaborate effectively when planning and delivering collective worship and leaders model sessions to staff where necessary as part of their development. We have an open culture where if a member of staff isn't confident about leading prayer, they are able and encouraged to ask for advice, which is then readily provided.

Class prayer

Expectations for F1 (Nursery)

Children pray daily in our Nursery class. They learn the importance of joining as a class community for times of quiet reflection at a level appropriate to their age. Teachers invite children to join in a range of prayer, using resources and a focal point reflecting the liturgical calendar. They begin to understand our daily mission and how they can use it in their own lives.

In Nursery, staff use Diddy Disciples worship and storytelling resources to support their planning of sessions. Our Mini Vinnies children enjoy leading and supporting prayer with our youngest children on a weekly basis.

Expectations for Yrs Reception - 6

Prayer & Liturgy is planned by staff and children on a weekly basis. At an age appropriate level, children work in groups to lead the class prayer sessions under the guidance of the teacher. This is built up progressively through the year groups, with children in KS2 taking more of an active lead.

Reflective atmospheres are created in classes using music and candles and children's attention is drawn to focal tables or displays in the class. These are updated regularly, in line with the liturgical calendar. The school uses Ten:Ten resources to support prayer sessions. Traditional prayers are used throughout the day, (Morning, lunch and end of the day).

Staff use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, ICT, DVD clips and discussion. Children from Years 2-6 have their own personal prayer book. During prayer sessions, the children have opportunities to write their own individual prayers and share them with the class.

Teachers capture the focus of the sessions on google slides. This provides a strong reference point for children to view their prayer journey as a class throughout the academic year.

Whole school prayer

Whole school prayer takes place twice a week. Monday morning Celebration of the Word prepares children to 'go forth' during the week ahead. Scripture is usually shared and its meaning and value discussed at a level appropriate for the children. On Friday

afternoon we have a whole school worship to celebrate and give thanks for the week.

Parental / carer involvement

To achieve our vision, St Bernard's understands the importance of a strong home - school partnership. Throughout the academic year, we look to create numerous opportunities for parents and carers to join the children and staff for prayer, including class assemblies, school masses and stay and pray sessions.

For parents unable to attend, we use social media regularly to capture times of prayer. In F1 and F2, to help parents understand the importance of prayer, staff share prayer and liturgy sessions on Tapestry.

Monitoring of Practice

The monitoring of the fulfilment of policy is done by:

- Regular monitoring by RE, school leaders and where possible and available, Governors. We ensure there is ample time for reflective conversations with class teachers, where we celebrate and share strong practice and discuss any next steps.

Evaluation of Impact of Prayer & Liturgy

The elements of the evaluation process will include:

- Evaluation by the SLT of the organisation and quality of Collective Worship.
- Evaluation of the impact on staff - verbally.
- Evaluation of the impact on students - verbally.

<p>This policy/document was reviewed by:-</p> <p>Signed: J Le Feuvre Head of School</p> <p>Signed: B. Letissier Chair of Governors</p>	<p>Date: 1.9.23</p> <p>Date: 1.9.23</p>
<p>The next revision date is:</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p>