



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Version:	4
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Ratified by:	LGB
Date ratified:	9 th October 2023 Amended January 2025
Date issued:	9 th October 2023 Amended January 2025
Policy Review Date:	October 2025
Post Holder Responsible for Review:	RE Lead



Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Prayer and Liturgy Policy has been approved and adopted by St Joseph's Catholic Primary School on **9th October 2013** and will be reviewed in **October 2025**.

Signed by the Chair of the Local Governing Body for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School:

John Coyne



Signed by the Principal for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School:

Anthony Wilkes



What to include:

Simple statement about how P&L supports your mission

Overview of provision – daily pattern of prayer, weekly pattern, half termly pattern of prayer, provision during various liturgical seasons, patronal feast days

Expectations for progression of skills of participation and preparation

Resourcing, budget allocation arrangements, staff time available to organise prayer and liturgy, chaplaincy provision, expectations for spaces used for prayer

Training and formation – induction arrangement and responsibilities, ongoing CPD, relationship between training and school improvement, provision for whole staff and individual needs

Monitoring and evaluation – frequency, procedure for identifying foci and success criteria, relationship between monitoring and evaluation and school improvement, relationship between monitoring and evaluation and CPD (each type of prayer is monitored on a half term basis)

Review statement – when next review and who by?

1. School Mission Statement

At St Joseph's RC Primary School, our mission is:

In following the Gospel values of Jesus, we are called to love, to learn and to respect one another.

2. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in Church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church;
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Prayer and liturgy in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

3. The Aims and Purpose of Prayer and liturgy

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jesus Christ is central to every aspect of school life. We aim to be a loving community which is inspired by the life of Christ and the teachings of the Church, rooted in Gospel values and Catholic virtues. We are confident that visitors and community members can feel the sense that we are a distinctly Catholic community upon entering the school premises. Acts of worship may take place at any time during the day. It may take the form of a single act of worship with the whole school community or separate acts of worship in phase/year/class groups. When we gather for prayer and liturgy, we are open to God's presence among us. Prayer and liturgy in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships. It is a way of deepening our relationship with God together and individually. Though worship takes many forms within our school, we strive to grow in spiritual, moral and liturgical understanding. We allow ourselves to grow in understanding of our living faith tradition and then develop a sense of wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ. It is through prayer and liturgy that we share each other's faith experiences and learn the skills of prayer and reflection.

The five key principles of liturgy are that it:

- i. gives glory to God and we are made holy;
- ii. is an action of the Holy Trinity;
- iii. calls us to full, conscious, and active participation;
- iv. is future-orientated and keeps our eyes on the Kingdom of Heaven;
- v. is an exercise of the priestly prayer of Jesus Christ to the Father.

- contemplate the mystery of God;
- unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;
- develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.
- meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened;

Prayer and Liturgy in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer and our responses to it and being inspired into action, in line with our mission statement;
- To develop the skills to plan and lead our own acts of Liturgy.

We aim to:

- develop an awareness and understanding of the mystery and presence of God in everyone's lives;
- allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on commitment to their own, individual faith journey;
- unite our worshipping with the Eucharistic community through the celebration of the solemnities and feast days within the liturgical year;
- promote sacramental life and encourage all members of the community, both in and out of school to play a part in the preparation and celebration of the of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation;
- foster school-parish links, to successfully live out our school mission statement, to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith, experiencing liturgy and worship beyond the school setting;
- give regular opportunities for each child and staff member, to develop the skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy and meditation which will enable their relationships with God to be deepened.

4. Implementation

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

5. Context of this Prayer & Liturgy Policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become

reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.

6. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to.
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

8. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

The Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator works with school leadership, pupils, staff and governors to ensure a cohesive response to the development spirituality. Prayer and liturgy takes place in school daily. Staff and pupils are encouraged to pray with thoughtfulness and with respect through a variety of prayer experiences: -

o **Dedicated Class Time**

- Prayers will be said in class four times a day (Morning, Before Lunch, After Lunch and End of the Day). This follows the pattern of prayer within the Church.
- Children may be selected to lead prayers during class time, or the class may pray collectively or be led by the teacher.
- 'Pupil-Prepared Prayer' takes place weekly.
- Formal prayers, appropriate to the age and maturity of the year group, are taught through the RE Strategy. Each class teacher has a copy of the prayers that their class are expected to learn in each year. (See *Appendix A*)
- **Whole School Prayer and Liturgy**
 - *Weekly Whole School Liturgy*
 - Each Monday morning, a member of SLT will lead a scripture assembly based on the relevant liturgy of the word for the week/day. These scripture assemblies will sometimes be supported with content from Ten:Ten.
 - *Whole School Hymn Practice (Every other week)*
 - On a Wednesday, children gather for a time of prayer. Alongside the opportunity for prayer and contemplation, the children learn Mass responses and sing both traditional and modern hymns. Music is a central part of worship in our school and hymns are used in all areas of worship from supporting themes within Masses and assemblies to providing atmosphere through chants and reflective music in collective worship. The children enjoy singing and a number of them sing in the school choir, which has a very important part to play in Mass and liturgical celebrations.
 - *KS2 Meditation (Every other week)*
 - On a Wednesday, children gather in their Key Stages for a time of prayer that allows them to continue to reflect on the messages shared in Monday's scripture assembly. The children get time for silent prayer and contemplation.
 - *Weekly Gifts from God Assembly*
 - At the end of each week, SLT lead a celebration assembly to mark the pupil's achievements that week. This includes certificates for effort, attitude, resilience and also awards for living out the Gospel virtues and values. Once a half term, pupils may also bring in their awards from home including swimming, football and sporting achievements as well as success in other areas such as chess, reading and music. This is a real opportunity to celebrate the gifts that God has given.
- **Masses**
 - Pupils celebrate Mass, led by Fr. Philip, our parish priest regularly. Parents, family members and governors are always invited to attend, if they wish.
 - Pupils play an active part in each Mass, through reading, praying, singing, altar serving and taking part in offertory processions.
 - Children from across the school take it in turns to lead and prepare the celebration based on the liturgical year, focusing on solemnities, feast days and the theme of the scripture readings for the day. Every effort is

made to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation if they fall within the school week.

- **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
 - The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will take place in Year 3
 - Year 6 pupils preparing for Confirmation will attend Reconciliation prior to their Confirmation
 - Children in other Year groups can receive Reconciliation during Advent and Lent, upon request
- **Pupil-Prepared Prayer**
 - The children have the opportunity to prepare and/or lead prayer services in their classes weekly
 - The level of independence the children have in doing this varies from year group to year group (*see Section 6. Pupil-Prepared Prayer*).
- **Prayer Bags**
 - Prayer bags are sent home throughout the liturgical year e.g. during Advent, Lent and the month of May.
 - These are taken home and shared so that through examination of text, artefacts and prayer the family unit has the opportunity to pray together on a theme familiar to the child.
- **Staff Prayer**
 - On a weekly basis, there is an opportunity for staff to attend Staff Prayer. This takes place at the start of staff briefing on a Tuesday and Friday morning.
 - Prayer and reflection also forms part of the weekly Staff Meeting each Wednesday.
- **Raising Awareness of Prayer and Liturgy**
 - As a Catholic School, we recognise the importance of positive role models and examples within the school community. As such, it is important to promote, inform and report to stakeholders about Prayer and Liturgy.
 - The Headteacher report to Governors includes an overview of Prayer and Liturgy (Collective Worship). This is reported half termly.
 - The weekly newsletter also highlights the importance of Prayer and Liturgy within our School Community and examples of this is celebrated within school.

See APOP for further information.

What is Prayer and Liturgy?

What is Prayer?

Prayer is conversation with God, the angels and the saints. Prayer should be experienced as a living relationship with God, in and through Jesus Christ. All forms of prayer are God's gift.

What is Liturgy?

Liturgy is a communal act in which we praise and worship God. Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives.

All good liturgies involve the telling of the story of Christ and his Church.

Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell-as guided by the Holy Spirit.

4. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School and Community

4.1 Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

An Act of Collective Worship, appropriate for the liturgical season, takes place each day and can be celebrated as a whole school, key stage or class.

Collective Worship throughout the week is usually organised as follows:

Monday Staff prayer Gospel Assembly Tuesday Musical Praise Hymn Practice

Wednesday In-class collective worship- this can include phase/key stage

collective worship Thursday Staff prayer Mass Friday Gifts of God Celebration

Gospel Assemblies take place in the hall on Mondays.

Class liturgy on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Adult-led and child-led)

Meditation is on Thursdays (KS2 in the hall and KS1 in the classrooms)

Gifts from God are on a Friday.

Content will follow the Gospel teachings and the liturgical calendar.

Prayer and liturgy in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

Gather – bringing everyone together into the Holy Space; the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sat in a different format, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

Listen – Sharing scripture to proclaim God's word (For example, by listening to a Scripture reading, breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;

Respond – Responding to God's word through prayer, action or song (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers. For other examples, see Birmingham Diocesan Education Service's (Practical Prayer Ideas for the Classroom')

Go forth – sharing the message of the scripture for people to think about and act upon; the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

There should be a sacred space (prayer table) in every learning room. This should be placed in a prominent position and reflect the current liturgical season. Sacred spaces should be clutter-free and be set up in a manner which inspires prayer.

During liturgy a prayer focal point should be created. For example, use of the Altar Table in the hall, appropriately dressed; or using the additional wooden tables in the classroom.

Pupils should develop the skills necessary to plan and lead collective worship with growing independence across the phases. This journey of progression is explicitly mapped out for our staff and pupils below.

Staff are expected to model high-quality prayerful acts of Collective Worship and then support and facilitate opportunities for pupils to plan and lead their own. See appendices for BDES planning templates and resource bank.

School progression of class liturgy

Reception

Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1. Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), adults give children (whole class, group and/or individual) activities from each of the four elements (G, L, R, GF) to choose from, when they are ready. This increases throughout the year until children are choosing from all options and they begin to suggest their own activity ideas. Throughout the academic year, children become more confident/independent in creating the prayer focal point. This develops into being able to self-choose appropriate religious objects, including consideration of the liturgical season (with adult guidance) The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 1

Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), children (whole class, group and/or individual) choose activities from 2 or 3 elements (G, L, R, GF). Children are encouraged to suggest their own activities (adults could use the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire) so that by the Summer Term, they are confident in doing this mostly independently. The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 2 – Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), children (whole class, group and/or individual) choose activities for each element (G, L, R, GF). Children are encouraged to suggest their own activities (adults could use the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire). Children lead all elements of the Collective Worship session as co-ordinated by an adult. Children should be given sufficient time to practise. The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 3

Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1.

Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3) and adult guidance for the focus, children (whole class, group and/or individual), with support (e.g.: if the child plans to play music for the 'Gather' section, the adult helps to identify the specific hymn/song), plan the Collective Worship session for each of the four elements (G, L, R, GF). Children use a combination of the child-led planning template-suggested activities and their own (adults share the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire). Adults model making planning choices that are linked to the chosen scripture and justifying these choices. Children lead all elements of the Collective Worship session, supported by an adult. Children should be given sufficient time to practise.

Year 4 –

Child-Led Worship (with adult support in planning) Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1. Adults decide the theme of worship opportunities and support children in deciding upon relevant scripture. Children work independently at the planning stage, but prior to delivering their worship opportunities (or during planning), their planning is checked/directed to ensure its relevance to the chosen scripture and theme. Where possible, children will share worship opportunities with other classes in different locations around school and beyond. Pupils will record worship opportunities by completing planning pro forma (starting with child-led planning template and moving onto main planning pro forma)

Year 5 and Year 6 – Children plan and lead all aspects of the liturgy independently making informed decisions to provide an enriching experience for all

Celebration of the Eucharist

This takes place at the beginning and end of terms, on holy or celebratory days. Every class from Year 2 upwards also celebrates Mass in their classroom at least twice a year. Reception Class and Year 1 share in prayer services with Father Philip at least twice a year in their classrooms. Every House Saint feast day is celebrated with Mass.

Links with the Parish and School Communities

All parents, parishioners and governors have an open invitation to our Masses and celebration assemblies. Throughout the year, classes hold their own class assemblies and we celebrate Our Lord's Nativity in our Christmas play and carol service. Our Reception children are welcomed into the Parish at the start of the year during a Saturday evening welcome Mass, and there is at least one

other school led Mass in Our lady and All Saints Church during the year – this is normally to celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph.

Expectations for our school community

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate enthusiastically in all acts of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Be active listeners and action the messages to the best of their ability
- Take part in the evaluation of liturgy and prayer

Liturgy Leaders

Liturgy Leaders are expected to:

- Be role models for the school's Catholic Ethos.
- Be role models for planning, leading and participating in acts of prayer and liturgy
- Be responsible for maintaining and evaluating sacred spaces across the school, including prayer tables in classes, feeding back to the Principal or Vice Principal when needed.
- Take notice of and act upon areas for improvement, in conjunction with the Principal and Vice Principal.
- Take an active part in all other areas of prayer and liturgy across the school, when required.

Parents and carers

We ask that parents and carers support the importance of Prayer and Liturgy by:

- Attended and participating in Masses, assemblies and services where possible Support children in practising their readings, when applicable
- Where applicable, attend sacramental Masses of commitment
- Help the school evaluate the effectiveness of prayer and liturgy by completing surveys when available
- At home, where appropriate, support children to access and understand prayer, by, for example, using school prayer bags together

Staff

We ask that Staff teach the importance of Prayer and Liturgy by:

- Being role-models in attending and actively participating in acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- Lead high-quality prayer and liturgy, which act as excellent exemplars from which pupils are able to plan their own
- Support pupils in planning and leading acts of prayer and liturgy
- Provide pupils with meaningful prayer and liturgy experiences, including appropriately supporting those with SEND
- Assist pupils to develop the language of prayer and liturgy

- Teach pupils the traditional prayers of The Church (as identified by Birmingham Diocese)

Subject leader

The R.E. subject leader, in liaison with The Principal will be responsible for:

Formulating and reviewing a written Prayer and Liturgy policy

Coordinating rotas, timetables etc. for acts of prayer and liturgy, including collective worship

Monitoring the appropriateness and effectiveness of prayer and liturgy, including collective worship

Providing training to new staff and/or where training needs are identified

Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings

Liaise with the Parish Priest and the Parish Secretary with regard to the preparation and celebration of liturgy, prayer and Mass

Ensure appropriate risk assessments are in place for religious visits, including visiting church

Assisting Governors, including the R.E. link governor in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy

Governors

The governing board will:

Review this policy and ensure it is appropriate for our school's context

Place the highest priority on the evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy

Ensure prayer and liturgy is embedded in the school's cycle of self-evaluation and planned improvements.

Ensure provision for prayer and liturgy is prioritised when setting budgets and allocating resources

Policy Monitoring and Review

The Governance Committee are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to prayer and liturgy, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998. It is the overall responsibility of the Governance Committee, in consultation with the Principal, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the RE Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. The Local Governing Body (LGB) should review reports on the prayer life of the school.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for prayer and liturgy;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;

- Whether prayer and liturgy is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on prayer and liturgy and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in prayer and liturgy.

Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process. Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and the LGB with recommendations for future action.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.

Keeping Children safe in Education 2023

At St Joseph's, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, we take a child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they consider at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

KCSIE 2023

RE Coordinator: Mrs R Mitchell

Principal: Mr A Wilkes

RE Link Local Governing Body Representative: Fr Philip Griffin

Chair of the Local Governing Body Committee: Mr John Coyne



Appendix 1

Daily Prayers

Morning Prayer *(to be said during morning registration)* Father in heaven, you love me,

you are with me night and day. I want to love you always

in all I do and say.

I'll try to please you, Father, bless me through the day. Amen.

Grace Before Meals *(to be said before children are dismissed for lunch)*

Bless us, O God, as we sit together.

Bless the food we eat today.

Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us, O God.

Amen.

Grace after meals *(to be said during afternoon registration)*

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.

Thank you, God, for all our friends. Thank you, God, for everything,

Thank you God.

Amen.

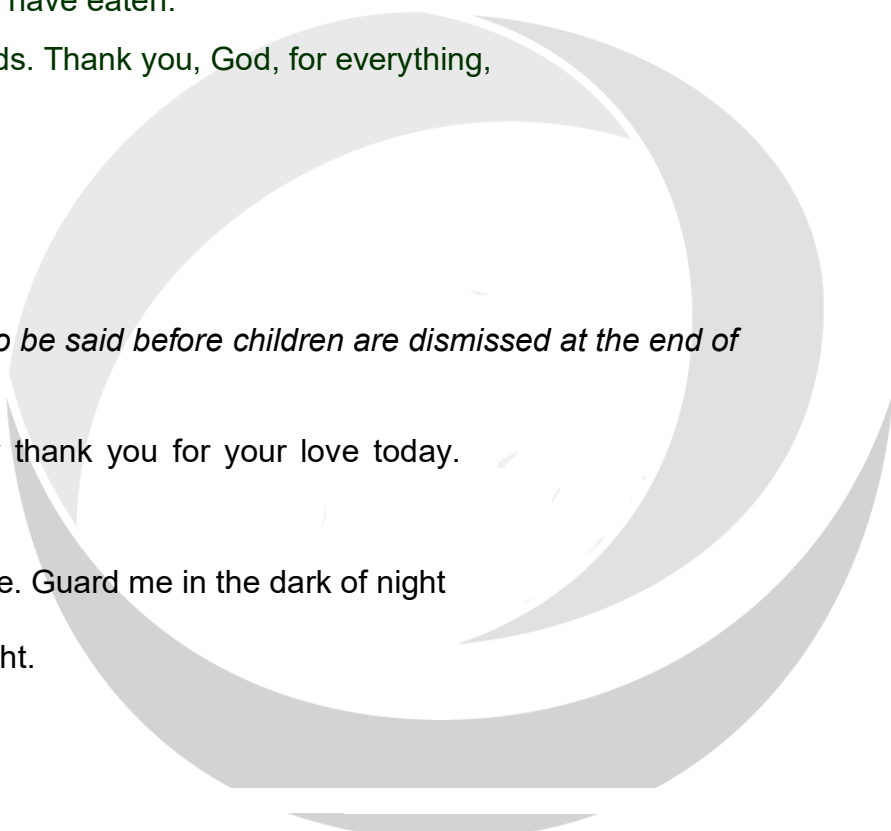
Prayer at the end of the day *(to be said before children are dismissed at the end of the day)*

God our Father, I come to say thank you for your love today.

Thank you for my family

and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night

and in the morning send your light.



Amen.

Appendix 2

BDES Guidance for Prayer Areas- *n.b. each classroom has a box of religious objects for prayer tables. Battery candles only to be used.*

Prayer Areas



Position the prayer areas as a focal point of the room.

EYFS & Key stage 1 children should be able to gather around the prayer area.

Key Stage 2 children should be able to easily face towards the prayer area.

Permanent items in a prayer area should include a crucifix, a Bible and a candle. You may also include a religious statue.

Ensure that an age appropriate Bible/Bible story is enthroned upon the table.

Prayer areas can display prayers of the Church at different times of the liturgical year.
(The specific prayers the children are learning)

You could include opportunities for children to share their own prayer intentions in a box, basket or book etc.

The area should reflect other key events, commemorations and celebrations of the Liturgical Year Church at appropriate times e.g. during the month of October a statue of Mary or Rosary Beads can be placed.

Additional items may include images, quotes, poems, hymns, Catholic religious symbols and other objects reflecting seasonal prayer intentions of the Church e.g. Creation and harvest

✓	✗
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve children to help create the area. - Ask a colleague to come and view your prayer area to offer guidance and support. - Ensure you know when the Liturgical times of the year change and you know where the appropriate cloth is. - Change the items on the table to match the liturgical seasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place the prayer area in a place where it is likely to be brushed against/damaged. - Place religious symbols and iconography pertinent to other faiths - This is a Catholic prayer area. - Have all the prayers for the whole year up.

	- Clutter your prayer area – Sometimes less is more.
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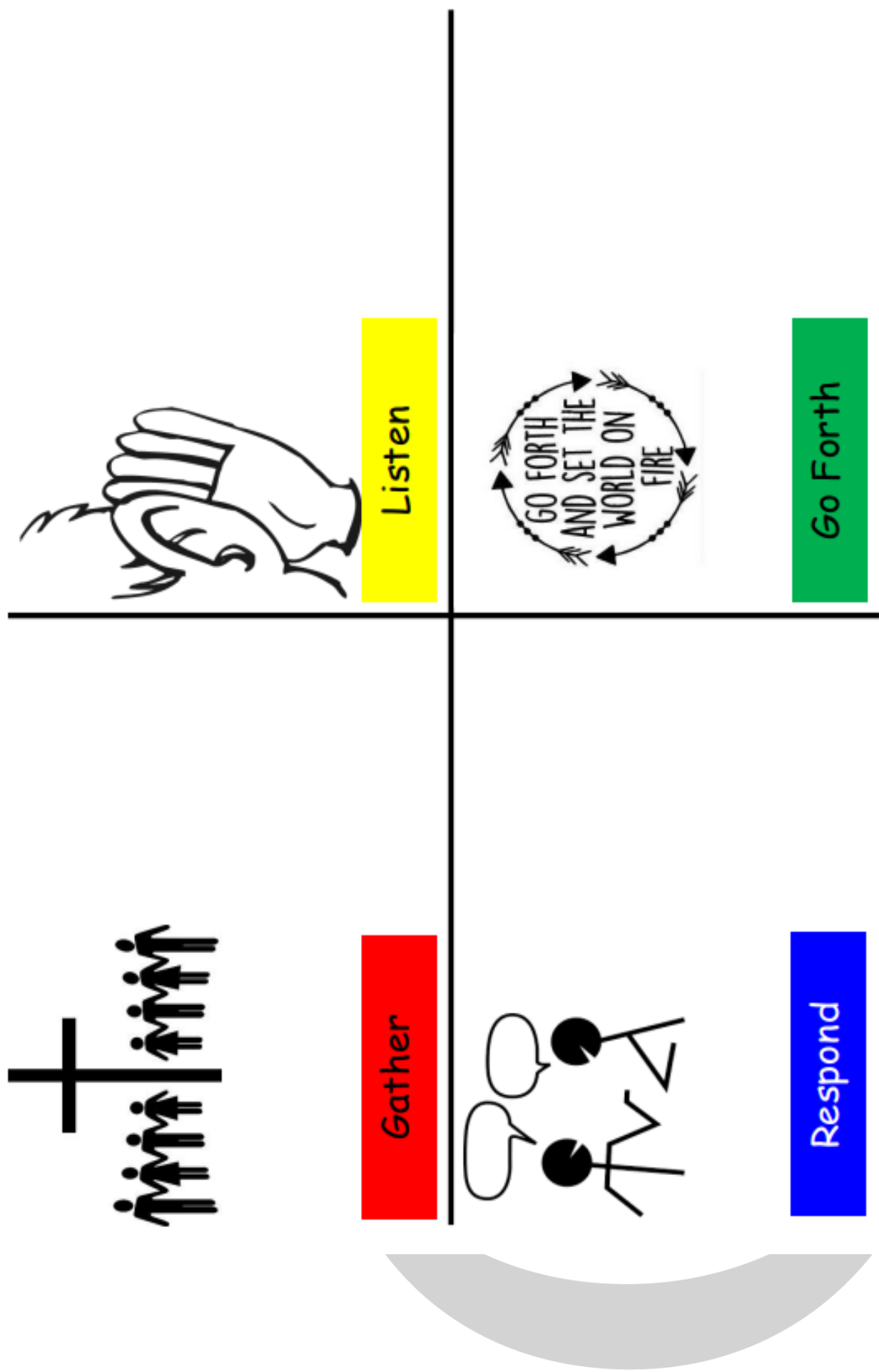
Liturgical Colours for Prayer Areas

Advent -Purple	<p>4 weeks of Advent (Four Sundays before Christmas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer areas during this season will be covered with a purple cloth and should include an Advent Wreath (to be lit at prayer time), an Advent Calendar (counting the days from the first day of Advent to Christmas), figures of Mary & Joseph waiting in the stable, journeying Wise Men and a Jesse Tree (Y4). <p>An image of Mary on the Diocesan Feast of the Immaculate Conception may also be displayed on 8 December.</p>
Christmas - White and Gold	<p>Christmas Season from the Vigil Christmas Eve Mass until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the season of Christmas, prayer areas should be adorned in white and gold cloths to celebrate the birth of Christ. Flowers may also be placed in the prayer space (a Poinsettia has significant symbolism) . The crib would include a star, the figures of the nativity and then finally the Wise Men on Epiphany (6th January).
Ordinary Time 1 Green	<p>Ordinary time after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord until Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During this period of Ordinary Time, prayer areas will be covered in a green cloth. The figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the crib can remain until February 2nd (The Presentation of Our Lord) and new candles which may have been blessed at Mass on this date may also be added.
Lent – Purple	<p>Lent - beginning on Ash Wednesday until the Vigil Mass on Easter Saturday Evening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the season of Lent, the prayer area will be covered in a purple cloth. A 40 Days calendar to represent the time Jesus spent in the desert may also be added. Sand and stones could be used to recreate the emptiness of the desert. A bowl of ashes on the prayer space would serve as reminder of the ashes placed on the forehead on Ash Wednesday, the start of this season. <p>The Diocesan Feast of St. Chad is March 2nd, a St. Chad's Cross could be added to the prayer area to celebrate this Feast Day.</p>
Holy Week- Purple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Holy Week the prayer area will continue to be covered in purple cloth and palm crosses may be added on Palm Sunday. Images of the Stations of the Cross could be added as a reminder of the events of Jesus' arrest to his death. A crucifix should also be included as a reminder of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. Symbols of Holy Week could also be added to the prayer space.
Easter Season - White and Gold	<p>Easter Season from Easter Sunday until Pentecost (The birthday of the Church)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the season of Easter, the prayer area should be adorned in white and gold cloth as a celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day. An Easter

Pentecost-Re	<p>Garden could be added as a joyful reminder of the empty tomb which was discovered signifying Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The word 'Alleluia' should feature prominently as a reminder that Christ is risen. Images of the risen Christ as well as a Risen Jesus crucifix would be appropriate. Flowers and symbols of new life including eggs would also celebrate this joyful time. Year 1 in particular should include a Paschal Candle/Easter Candle and lit to signify the light of Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An image of the Ascension could be displayed on the Feast of the Ascension. • A statue or image of Our Lady for May, the month of Mary could be added. • On the Feast of Pentecost, the priest's vestments and cloths in church will be red. Symbols of the Holy Spirit (dove, wind, fire) could be displayed. This is the church's birthday and therefore sharing birthday cake would be a joyful sign of this. Images of Pentecost could be used on prayer areas
Ordinary Time 2 - Green	<p>Ordinary Time following Pentecost Sunday until the Solemnity of Christ the King (the Sunday before Advent begins).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this second period of Ordinary Time, the prayer area would be covered in a green cloth. • Images of Our Lady for her birthday (9th September) could be displayed. • During the Harvest festival celebrations, objects of creation and offerings for the harvest festival could be displayed on the prayer area. • In the month of October, images of the Mysteries of the Rosary and Rosary beads can be displayed and used in prayer time. • Images of the saints on November 1 (the saint of the school or class saint names if relevant) could be displayed. • During the month of November (the Month of the Holy Souls), a book of prayer intentions could be included for those who have died. • Images of Christ the King could be displayed on this Feast Day, the week before Advent begins which is also National Youth Sunday.

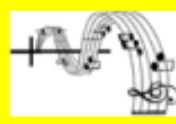


Appendix 3
Child-Led Planning Template





Listening to a Psalm



Listening to a Hymn



Special Challenge



Bible Reading



Listening to a story



Take something home



Listen to some World News



Listening to a Prayer




Open Prayer



Remember a sentence



Light a candle



Write a Post-it



Listening to Prayer



Sit differently



Watch a PowerPoint



Activity E.G. Art



Play Music



Show a picture / resource / artefact



Act out the Gospel



Write a class Tweet