



Federation of All Saints
& St Margaret's

Catholic Life Policy

The Spiritual Life of School

Prayer occupies an important role in our Religious Education as a means of expressing, fostering and nurturing faith. Children have a natural aptitude for prayer, they are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, anger, disappointment and elation to the world round them. We, in the federation, aim to create and maintain an environment where this is fostered and developed. Our classrooms, work areas and school entrance are welcoming, bright, colourful and creative so that our Mission Statement is being lived out through our surroundings.

We aim to promote the culture of prayer by reflecting on the promise of Christ:

“Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be open to you.”

Children are encouraged and helped to discover the many different ways in which to pray, formal and informal, private and communal. They are encouraged to be still and listen to God. We aim to teach and develop a variety of prayer methods to the children such as:

- Teaching the traditional prayers of the church alongside new prayers.
- Allowing the children to develop their spiritual awareness by giving them the skills to create asking, thanksgiving, praising and sorry prayers. (Spontaneous prayer)
- Through the reading of the Gospels and the Holy Bible. (liturgical prayer)
- Through the teaching of traditional hymns alongside new style hymns.
- Through the teaching of drama, sacred music and prayer.
- Meditating and reflecting in silence whilst being inspired by liturgical music and religious art.

Prayer in the classroom

Each classroom in the school creates a prayerful environment by each having a prayer focus.

- It is required that this focus is dressed in the liturgical colours of the year as a visual sign to the children to show the change and the mood of the liturgical calendar.
- This prayer focus should have a bible which shows the previous Sunday's Gospel readings; or the reading associated with a feast day; or a reading which is relevant to that scheme of work.
- Teachers are encouraged to be creative when creating an interactive display on this focus. Objects, images, candles which reflect the liturgical year and feasts.
- Teachers are encouraged to provide a prayer box where children can write petitions so that the class as a community can pray for the need of the class.
- Each room in the school has a crucifix which reminds us all of the sacrifice of Christ for all of humanity; it reminds us that Christ is the foundation stone of Catholic education and that Christ is at the centre at everything we do.

Providing class collective worship on a daily basis.

It is required by law to provide daily worship in the classroom. Teacher and pupils pray at each of these periods of the day:

At the beginning of the school day (asking prayer)

At Lunchtime (Thanksgiving prayer)

At Home time (asking, thanksgiving and or praising prayer)

Date written or reviewed	By	FGB/Committee/HT	To be reviewed again
November 2015	DH & GB	T+L	Autumn Term 2017