

Ysgol Gatholig Mair Ddihalog
Mary Immaculate Catholic School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Our Catholic School

As a Catholic school our Christian ethos is at the heart of all that we do. Our school should manifest a Catholic ethos which is evident and open to experience by all who enter the school. We promote gospel values and the teachings of Christ and the Catholic faith. We follow policies that reflect and embody the teaching of Christ and the Catholic Church and model leadership inspired by the image and life of Christ. We attend to the spiritual needs of children and young people as a constant priority. We care for the pastoral and special needs of children and young people in accordance with gospel values and the teaching of the Catholic Church. All of our work will manifest the centrality of Christ and the Catholic faith.

Christ at the Centre

Mission Statement

‘Living and Learning in the Light of Christ’

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The school is committed to ensuring the highest standards of Data Protection. We will treat all personal data as we would expect our own personal data to be treated, i.e. with respect, integrity and confidentiality and in accordance with the GDPR and other Data Protection laws. All of our school policies will adhere to GDPR guidelines. Our Privacy Notice is published on the school website - privacy notice.

UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

The principles of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are embedded throughout all our curriculum and practices. This provides us with a framework which provides a real meaning and understanding for everything we do.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Introduction

At Mary Immaculate Catholic School, Prayer and Liturgy is integral to developing the children’s relationship with Christ. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre.

Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life.

At Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church. Children take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy.

We believe worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives. It celebrates his presence amongst us today and allows children and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him. In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, assemblies, meditation and liturgies.

We strive to provide many opportunities for the children to develop their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well established Safeguarding procedures. The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or Church.

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 more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out ‘to wonder at’, ‘to come to terms with’ and ‘to give worth to.’

Principles

All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
 - Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', 'TenTen', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations in school and in St David and St Patrick's Church.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Classroom based pupil led Prayer and Liturgy consists of:

- Gathering: We think about how everyone will gather for Prayer (music, song, procession etc) and what we are going to have as a focus (lighted candle, statue, picture etc)
- Prayer: We think about how we are going to start Prayer and Liturgy (signing of the cross, blessing with Holy water etc)
- Word of God: We think about what reading we are going to use
- Responding: We think about how we will respond to the word of God
- Going Forth: We think about what we can do, say or help to carry the message from the word of God to others during the coming week
- Blessing and dismissal: We think about how we are going to end our Prayer and Liturgy.

Time Allocation

Approximately between five and ten minutes per day is spent in Prayer and Liturgy, depending on the age of the children in the class. This is in addition to various other prayers, including morning, lunch time and home time prayers, which are said on a daily basis. Children are encouraged to write and say their own prayers and are also encouraged to spend extra time planning their weekly liturgies.

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy.

Type	Involves	Frequency	Location	Led By:
Faith Ambassador Assembly	Whole School	Every Thursday morning	Main hall – PS 2 and 3 Dosabrth Amroth – PS 1	Faith Ambassadors

Morning Prayer	All classes	Daily to start the day	In class	Teacher, Dept of Spiritual Life, Prayer leaders
Grace before and after meals	All classes	Daily, before and after lunch	In class	Teacher, Dept of Spiritual Life, Prayer leaders
Evening Prayer	All classes	Daily, End of the day	In class	Teacher, Dept of Spiritual Life, Prayer leaders
Class Prayer and Liturgy	All classes	Every Wednesday	Various locations across the school including Grotto, classroom, hall	Children under teacher guidance
Weekday Mass	Dosbarth Little Haven – Dosbarth Abereidly	Weekly as per weekday Mass timetable	St David and St Patrick Church	Pupils, Parish priest and parishioners
Special mass with Parish	Whole School	Timetabled Through Year e.g. Feast Days/ Holy Day of Obligation/ Start of School Year etc.	St David and St Patrick's Church, School	Parish priest, RE Team, Children
Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Year 3	Summer Term	St David and St Patrick church	Pupils, Parish Priest, RE team
Celebration Prayer and Liturgy – Theme RE Curric/ Liturgical Year	Whole School	As per timetable	School Hall	Class
Weekly Friday celebration	Whole School	Weekly	School Hall	Senior Leadership team
Staff Prayer Session	All staff	Weekly – Monday after school	Classrooms	RE Team

Recording:

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- using SeeSaw

- CAFOD Collective Worship planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Resources

Each class has a dedicated RE area that contains a prayer table plus artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set of text books and age appropriate Bibles.

Other resources are available in the central RE resource cupboard, including:

- Posters
- Candles
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics

Prayer Areas

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment.

All classrooms have their own small table which is used as a focus in Prayer and Liturgy. The colour of the cloth covering the table is always linked to the liturgical year and teachers and children carefully choose a small amount of relevant religious artefacts to be placed upon it.

Quiet areas around school provide daily opportunities for children to reflect. The worship area in the entrance is a place regularly used by children to write and say their own prayers. The school reflection area in the hall is used by classes to share daily worships and in recent years to host the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading Prayer and Liturgy.

This policy was agreed by our staff at their meeting on 5th March 2024

This policy was adopted by our governors at their meeting on 14th March 2024
This policy will be reviewed by our staff 5th April 2025