**St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School**

**Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust**

Loving, Living, Learning Together

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At St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is a unique creation of God.

We promote respect and care for one another following in the footsteps of the family Jesus wants us to be.

Caring for one another is at the centre of our school life.

We promise to provide educational opportunities and experiences to enrich the learning and well-being of the children by following the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Our school values its partnership with the Parish community and MAT, together enabling our children to become rounded, confident individuals, with an understanding of Gospel values as preparation for the world of work and life.

**Prayer & Liturgy Policy**

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| **Written by:** | **Date reviewed:** | **Approved by:** | **Date for next review:** |
| Jo Garnock-Jones | September 2021 |  | September 2022 |

**Prayer**

“Prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for God” [Catechism of the Catholic Church 2560]

‘Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours’ [Mark: 11:24]

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief in a God who communicates with people. God calls every human person into a loving relationship and as with every relationship, our relationship with God can only grow through communication. Prayer is the way in which we engage in communication with God. Christians believe that prayer is essential to human fulfilment for it is only in God that we can discover ourselves, our meaning and our purpose.

At St Joseph’s we have a set of values which underpin our school’s mission statement and is integral to every aspect of the life of the school. These are based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values. We celebrate a different value each half term:

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| --- | --- |
| Cycle 1 | Cycle 2 |
| * Kindness | * Compassion |
| * Love | * Gentleness |
| * Honesty | * Peace |
| * Forgiveness | * Mercy |
| * Faith | * Justice |
| * Community | * Tolerance |

**Prayer and Liturgy**

God is present and active in all authentic human experience. We already have a blessed life and worship is recognising and celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. God is reached through the world and adored within it. Creating a sacred space for worship is to create a space where the unity of God and creation is reverently symbolised and celebrated. Worship and the words and rituals we use should not sever us from the ordinary circumstances of our lives but rather unite us more closely to them.

**Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school**

In light of this and our school mission statement, we understand the Prayer and Liturgy life of our school community to be central to all we do. Through Prayer and Liturgy we encourage the development of a personal relationship with God. As a result of this the following occur:

• develop an understanding of what it means to belong to a community;

• provide opportunities for enhancing spiritual growth and personal

development through prayer and reflection;

• provide experiences of sharing values and celebrating significant events in

the lives of individuals and the community;

• develop knowledge of and experience seasons within the Church’s year; • develop knowledge and understanding of scripture;

• develop and celebrate skills of creativity.

Good worship happens when everyone is fully involved in the preparation and celebration. Time for worship is in addition to the 10% curriculum time for classroom Religious Education, as required by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. Within St. Joseph’s Prayer and Liturgy we provide opportunities for the community to come together to celebrate and share.

**At Saint Joseph’s 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

**Mission:** 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

**At Key Stage 1 worship includes:**

• short, simple liturgies and prayer times

• occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word

• the occasional celebration of Eucharist

• a range of types of prayer

• a range of styles of celebration

• opportunities for pupils to take an active part in Prayer and Liturgy

**At Key Stage 2 Prayer and Liturgy includes:**

• short, simple liturgies and prayer times

• occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word;

or the Eucharistic Prayer;

and/or the Communion Rite

• the occasional celebration of Eucharist

• a range of types of prayer

• a range of styles of celebration

• opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

• opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship

• opportunities to plan their own worship

• opportunities to share their planned worship with other classes

**Prayer Journals**

All children are encouraged to make their own prayer journal at the start of each academic year. They communicate with God through their own prayers and reflections.

**Space for Prayer**

We are currently developing areas around school that can be used for times of reflection and prayer. These spaces will be dedicated areas where children can gather their thoughts and develop their relationship with God, both inside and outside.