



Prayer Policy

Date:	May 2019	Review:	May 2022
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Prayer is a vital part of school life and as the children progress through the school it should become deeper and more carefully throughout.

- Each class has a prayer table which is regularly changed to reflect the Liturgical Seasons, TWTL topics or relevant feasts.
- The display in the main school hall is changed monthly to reflect the Liturgical seasons. Every class is asked to take responsibility for this board once a year.
- Prayer should be created in a 'prayerful' or 'worshipful' context. The act of writing or creating a prayer can be considered as worship in itself. We want to make the sessions prayerful by reminding the children what they are praying for and to try to make them more meaningful by giving the children the opportunity to suggest people they wish to pray for.
- **School prayers:**
 - The children should pray as they start their day, before and after lunch and before they go home.
 - There are separate sets of prayers for the EYFS, KS1 and KS2.
 - Children and staff regularly say our school prayer.
 - Parents of children who are completing the Sacramental Programme are given a list of prayers that they can share with their child at home.
- **Ideas to develop prayer writing:**
 - Prayers generally fall into 4 categories – thank you, sorry, asking and please.
 - Prayers can link to the RE topics if an idea for a theme is needed.
 - Try to encourage the children to make the prayers as individual as possible

Expectation of Prayer Composition: Reception – Year 6

All – Know that a prayer begins with 'Dear God/Lord' and ends with 'Amen'.

Reception – Write a sentence saying thank you, sorry or please (mostly about family)

Year 1 - Begin to write a series of sentences saying thank you, please or sorry.

Year 2 - Write a series of sentences saying thank you, please or sorry – children should start to include more religious language and show reference to other prayers that they may know (see above).

Year 3 - Children start to compose prayers, using sentences to form verses. Prayer should start to contain sacramental language – Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Forgiveness.

Year 4 – Children should start to become aware of community and global issues and start to reflect these in prayer. Children should show an awareness that they can ask God to help them become better people (e.g. asking for greater patience). Children should start to use a variety of ways of opening and concluding their prayers such as:

- Let us pray....
- We ask God
- We pray that.....
- Today we remember....and so ask God to
- Heavenly Father... Lord, Jesus.....
- Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer
- Lord hear us

Year 5 – Children should build upon the prayer styles they learned in Year 4 and form full verses, saying please, sorry or thank you. Children should begin to reference character attributes of famous Christian figures and saints (Oscar Romero etc) and ask for help in becoming more like these figures. Children should start to reference specific global issues – e.g. current natural disasters or humanitarian crises. To start to include scripture by getting pupils to reference toe.g. – Jesus taught us in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Forgiving Father) that God loves us even when at times we let Him down. Today we ask God to love us even more when we need Him the most.

Year 6 – Children should build upon the prayer styles they learned in Year 4 and 5. Children should write fully formed prayers saying please, sorry or thank you. Their prayers should include any religious language that they have acquired throughout their time at school. Children should confidently reference current global issues and prayers should allow for an aspirational tone, looking to the future with optimism.

Progression in Prayer

EYFS – KS2

	EYFS	KS1	KS2
Autumn	Sign of the Cross Morning and evening Prayers	Our Father Morning and evening prayers Grace Before and After meals	Act of Sorrow The Rosary Mass Responses Eternal Rest
Spring	Grace before and after Meals	Hail Mary Simple Mass Responses	Act of Faith Act of Charity Intercessions to Our Lady
Summer	Glory be to the Father	Prayer to your Guardian Angel	O Sacred Heart of Jesus