

# Our Lady of Furness Catholic Federation



*“Lovingly we learn in harmony”*

## Prayer & Liturgy Policy 2017-2020

Date:

Signed:

*Executive Headteacher*

Date:

Signed:

*Chair of Governors*

This Statement will be reviewed annually/bi-annually/**tri-annually**.  
This Statement will be next reviewed in **September 2020**.

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

We believe that Christian Worship 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 in action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The vision and mission of our school are driven by the conviction that we are made in the image and likeness of God and are called to be brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.)

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 assemblies are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

As a rule Prayer and Liturgy will take place in school or in our parish church.

In our school, as with any voluntary aided school, responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Executive Headteacher.

## **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 diversity of pupils' backgrounds, beliefs and other religious commitments.

## **The aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all staff and pupils:-

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore their own beliefs.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To reinforce 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 Prayer and Liturgy in our schools will:

- Raise our heart and mind to God.
- Celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community.
- Support our learner's spiritual development.
- Give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age and experiences.
- Be kept small if possible to personalise the experience.
- Seek to involve learners at all times in preparation and leadership.
- Prayer and worship will take account of the diversity of pupils' backgrounds beliefs and religious commitments.

### Organisation

Prayer and Liturgy takes place each day at a time decided on by the teacher for an age appropriate length of time.

St Mary's

	EYFS and KS1	KS2
Monday (9.00-9.15)	Whole School (Executive Headteacher)	
Tuesday (9.15-9.30)	Whole School (Assistant Headteacher) (KS2 classes will take it in turns to plan and lead a Prayer and Liturgy every ½ term)	
Wednesday (9.10-9.30)	Hymn Practice/Wednesday Word (B. Charnley)	
Thursday (KS1 – 9.15-9.30) (KS2 8.50-9.05)	Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy	Class Prayer and Liturgy (based on Bible reading homework)
Friday (9.10-9.30)	Celebration Assembly	

Our Lady's

	EYFS and KS1	KS2
Monday	Whole School	
Tuesday	Key Stage	Key Stage
Wednesday	Hymn Practice/Wednesday Word	

Thursday	Class Presentation
Friday	Celebration Assembly

### **The Planning, content and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, "The Way, the Truth, the life", significant dates and the curriculum.

Half-termly suggestions are produced by the RE Subject Leader.

### **Recording and monitoring**

Prayer and liturgy is recorded by each teacher and class folders record class worship. Files are kept in class rooms and monitored by the subject leader to ensure that children are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising worship.

### **Resources**

Resources are kept in the hall, library and in class worship areas.

### **The Role of the RE Subject Leader for Prayer and Liturgy:**

- Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy
- Ensuring there is a developing plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the School Development Plan (see Fit for Mission Action Plan 2009) and linked to the diocese Fit for Mission document.
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of learners.
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Invite visitors from other regions, countries, cultures and faith backgrounds into the school.
- Organising themes for Prayer and Liturgy.
- Work alongside other schools, including those of other faiths, on a range of activities including shared curriculum projects.
- Assisting the Governors and Executive Headteacher to carry their legal responsibilities with regard to Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating:**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Observing on occasions, an act of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Informing the Executive Headteacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Communication:**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of acts of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Opportunities are provided for visitors from different cultural or faith backgrounds to talk to pupils or for pupils to visit the school's parish church and places of worship of other faiths or Christian denominations.
- Reporting to and consulting with the Governors and Executive Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development.
- Work alongside schools including those of other faiths on a range of shared projects or assemblies that reflect the faith of those present.
- Acting as consultant to colleagues.
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy.
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy.
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaison with the diocese.

**Professional Development:**

- Leading and organising in service training for Prayer and Liturgy.
- Attending RE Subject Leader meetings and reporting back.

**Resources:**

- Evaluating existing resources and updating school worship area.
- Schemes of work promote understanding of beliefs, values and spirituality underpinning different cultures within the school, local communities and globally.
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, new and relevant publications.
- Managing the RE Subject Leader budget efficiently.