



ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAMSBOTTOM

PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

June 2023

Mission Statement

"There are 3 things that last: Faith, Hope and Love. Love one another as I have loved you."

Our school is proud to be part of the Roman Catholic community in the Parish of St Joseph's Ramsbottom. Our school has a distinctive character, because everything we do is based on the values of the Gospel. The purpose of our community is to recognise the worth and dignity of all and to fully develop the talents of each person."

Rationale

It is the fundamental aim of St Joseph's to assist pupils in their personal faith journey, by providing a range of varied quality spiritual experiences. These experiences are integral to the life and purpose of our school.

Aims of Prayer and Worship

- To communicate to children the nearness and presence of God.
- To deepen the spiritual and moral experience of each child and enable teachers and children to grow spiritually together.
- To integrate pupils' experience of prayer and worship with their learning across the whole curriculum.

Objectives

- To provide a range and depth of spiritual experiences which are vibrant, rich and varied.
- To provide opportunities for collective worship, both liturgical and non liturgical and individual prayer and reflection.
- To give children the opportunity to be involved in the formation, planning and delivery of prayerful experiences.
- To use the experiences and needs of the children, to choose the right moment and time to deliver quality prayerful occasions.
- To recognise the special place and time for traditional prayers and to share these with our pupils.

- To develop and deepen the prayer life of teachers themselves and to give structure and support.
- To provide both children and staff with a living, worshipping community, thereby helping them to enter into the full life of the church.
- To celebrate the season of the Liturgical Year.
- To offer the school community opportunities to give praise and thanks to God.

Planning and Organisation

- Children and Chaplains are given the responsibility of leading the school community in prayer and worship in classroom sessions and in assembly. At frequent times, children, parents and the parish community join together to share in a mass, liturgy or reflection together. Children are actively involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of these prayerful opportunities.
- Each week provides various opportunities for whole school collective worship. These include whole school assemblies; key stage assemblies; school masses and liturgies. Members of staff are invited to lead these gatherings along with the Headteacher, Deputy, Assistant Headteacher and other members of the Senior Management team.
- Class liturgies connected to the class focus are used to allow children to work together in providing prayerful experiences. Children are given the opportunity to lead a class liturgy using a simple format of: gathering prayer, Gospel reading, opportunity for reflection, hymn, closing prayer. Members of the Senior Management Team are invited to join these times of worship. Classes may also join together for a collective worship.
- All staff are asked to develop a prayer table/corner and religious displays that can be used as a source for the inspiration of prayer. Prayer cloths can be used in line with the Liturgical Year.
- Children and staff pray together using both traditional and inspired prayers. These times occur at the beginning of the school day; before and after lunch and at the end of the day.
- Through circle time and PSHCE. children are able to reflect on their behaviour, which in turn can lead to a focus for prayer.
- Each term individual classes prepare and present a class assembly, which they share with the whole school and parents.
- The 'Buddy' relationship between our Year 6 and Reception children has a unique and special value in our school community. This encourages all the children to share in the growth process involved in spiritual and moral development. A Year 6 child is paired with a Reception child and opportunities are given for them to learn and play together. This helps to develop a caring attitude and thus nurturing feelings of trust and responsibility.
- The 'Thought for the Week' gives the school community an opportunity to focus on an aspirational statement, supplied by the Catholic PSHE scheme, 'Annam Cara'.
- The school supports the parish with the Sacramental Programme.
- The whole school shares in Holy week, with events such as Reconciliation and a Holy Week Liturgy/Play that all children are actively involved in.
- Each member of the school community has a 'Prayer Partner' for the duration of the year. There are opportunities to pray for the prayer partner in class and at assembly. Prayer partners have opportunities to meet up at different times of the year to pray together.
- During seasons of the Church's year, particular prayers are shared e.g. The Stations of the Cross in Lent, the Rosary in the month of October.

- School Masses, Class Masses, Class Liturgies and Class Assemblies enable us to celebrate as a 'home – school – parish' community.
- The Y6 children write a school prayer each September, which is unique to that group and shared at regular worship activities and assemblies. Each new Y6 cohort will in turn have the opportunity to create a prayer that is unique and relevant to them giving a sense of ownership and pride in our spiritual journey.
- The use of the school hymn Peace Perfect Peace clearly symbolises our mission statement to have faith, hope and love.

Moral Development

Prayer and collective worship help to develop good moral growth. Its aims are consistent with the teachings and values as given to us by Jesus. As such children are taught that each individual is a unique special creation of God and that for this reason all people, regardless of colour, creed or culture are worthy of their love and respect. Following on from this, children are taught that they should not judge and that reconciliation and forgiveness is a very important part of our faith. A fundamental belief of our Roman Catholic faith is that all people have the right to choose. In terms of our moral teaching we try to give our children the knowledge, values and attitudes they need to make the best choices. To aid the children to do this we must constantly work towards creating an atmosphere which encourages trust and confidence to be able to ask questions and search for answers together.

Resources

- Artifacts to support liturgies and prayer tables are collected by individual teachers.
- Examples of prayers and liturgy books are stored in the Resource Area.
- Pictures, reflections and other Prayer and Worship materials are stored in the Resource Area

Funding

Money is allocated from the school budget to support prayer and worship throughout the school.

Other Policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Health & Safety Policy and Equal Opportunity Policies.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the School Improvement Plan's Policy Review Cycle.

June 2024