
OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY

We are a Catholic school, and our mission is to develop a Christ-centred community, which recognises Christ's love in every person and reflects the gospel values in the life and development of each child in our school.

As a Catholic school everything we do is underpinned by *Gospel Values*. Our *School Mission Statement* is:

One Family Living and Learning Together in Faith.

Religious Education Inspection

The Catholic school's inspectorate held our RE inspection in October 2024. Regarding collective worship, these areas were identified as a significant strength: Pupil outcomes, an active chaplaincy group, effective daily prayer and appropriate prayer places, including our oratory.

'Leaders, governors, and staff are wholeheartedly dedicated to the school's mission. Every member of the school community actively demonstrates works of mercy in service to others, truly embodying the belief of seeing Christ in everyone'.

As a voluntary aided school in the public sector, Our Lady Immaculate complies with all the relevant statutory requirements for the provision of Prayer & Liturgy. Whilst we do so wholeheartedly, as a faith school with our particular ethos, we believe that these statutory provisions are no more than a minimal baseline; one which we must always strive to exceed in our policies and practices. RE and Prayer & Liturgy are, therefore, for Our Lady Immaculate as fundamental as any core subject – a point that cannot be over-emphasized.

Daily Worship

Daily worship is almost always class or team gatherings. Children and staff are encouraged and allowed to participate fully in this daily worship. At Our Lady Immaculate, importance is put on creating a prayerful and reflective atmosphere to make this time special for children and staff, so that they can participate fully in worship together. During daily worship, teachers must use scripture and may also include song, music, candles, flowers, formal and informal prayers, poetry, books, posters, mime and silence as a stimulus for worship. Children gather in their classrooms, areas or our Oratory during the day. This is a time for sharing joy, sorrow, news, events.... It is a time for us to come together to celebrate and give thanks; to worship God, to

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reflect on personal belief, to encourage faith and to respond to and celebrate life. As each class teacher knows their children personally, this experience is most meaningful. Sometimes children will lead, or contribute to, these acts of worship. Silence is valued for both collective and personal communion with God.

Children of other faiths are included in our Prayer & Liturgy and assemblies and are encouraged to pray alongside us. During Prayer & Liturgy, there is a balance between formal and informal prayer intentions, and a time to allow for spontaneous worship and celebrations. Attitudes of praise, thanksgiving and contrition are developed. From this act of worship, children and staff get a sense of belonging and fellowship. This form of Prayer & Liturgy is always adapted to the age and development stage of the pupils. Staff are most sensitive to the needs and concerns of the children in their care.

Assemblies

Assemblies are normally EYFS/KS1 and LKS2/UKS2 based. Assembly takes many forms, but an act of Prayer & Liturgy is included at some stage. Each area, EYFS, KS1, LSK2 and UKS2 have two assemblies per week, usually on a Monday. It is intended that assemblies are learning experiences, hence the careful planning and delivery.

Assemblies and Prayer & Liturgy provide an opportunity for sharing ideas and thoughts with a larger group. Our Lady Immaculate aims, through its assemblies and worship, to contribute to our children's religious education. Through well-chosen themes, they link into PSHE, Health Education, SEAL and citizenship, core and foundation subjects. During times of prayer, we seek to enrich our pupils' experiences and we encourage the community to participate. To ensure breadth and depth to the children's experience, a variety of methods are used, including music, drama, story, art and artefacts. We also have a whole school collective worship/celebration assembly each Friday where children's achievements, successes, work and attendance, are shared and celebrated. celebration of Prayer & Liturgy is distinct and occurs at the beginning of our assembly time. All pupils in the school gather for singing worship every week, where The Word is recognised and celebrated through song, throughout the liturgical year.

Liturgy

Our Lady Immaculate aims to help children understand and celebrate relevant events in their own and the Church's life. As some of our children do not attend Church regularly, we have to be sensitive to their needs, and the form that liturgy takes must be carefully considered and

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planned. Educating children in these experiences is a gradual process and great care is taken in allowing for this.

Liturgical celebrations for EYFS/KS1 children are centered on their need to celebrate certain life events or experiences and highlights of the Church's year. KS2 children are involved in preparing and participating in their own liturgy. It is our aim that celebrations will be meaningful, enjoyable and prayerful. The liturgies for Our Lady Immaculate take place in our school. Staff and children gather for assembly and meditation at key liturgical points in the year. Parents, the parish community and school work together during sacramental preparation. Children are invited to help prepare and plan their own liturgy. The Chaplaincy Group with the SLT, help to prepare, plan and deliver whole school liturgy and are now beginning to prepare, plan and lead class Prayer & Liturgy.

Parents, carers and other family members are invited throughout the year to celebrate the liturgy of the Gospels, through Prayer & Liturgy and assemblies with their child.

The Oratory

The school has a small chapel, which we call the Oratory. All members of our community are most welcome to come and use the Oratory for prayer and reflection. Mass in the Oratory is occasionally held and is attended by school staff, children and visitors to our school. The Oratory is a special place, which is used to prepare children for sacramental preparation, worship and supports the spiritual development of staff and children.

The presence of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Tabernacle and we educate the children and give them a sense of reverence and respect. At times of celebration, thanksgiving, stress, loss, bereavement... children and staff share their prayers and intentions within our school community through our Prayer Intentions Book which is kept in the Oratory.

Spiritual and Moral Development

From our mission statement, we aim to develop all our children to their full potential and this includes spiritual and moral development. This can be identified in all our work in school but most of all in the relationships which exist within the school. Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, values others for themselves, not only for what they have or what they can do for us. We value relationships as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of ourselves

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and others and to the good of the community. This can be seen in policies such as relationships & behaviour, equal opportunities, SEND and inclusion. It can also be seen in the work done in RSE health education, PSHE, SEAL and assemblies.

As a Catholic Community we hold that the Christian outlook should have an effect on all aspects of school life, not just curriculum, but also personal relationships, manners, social development etc. It should also affect the conduct of wider school activities: celebrations, anniversaries, festivals, problems and complaints. In this way, we wish to promote an awareness of the spiritual significance of all aspects of daily life including the gifts, talents and personalities of both children and staff.