


# St Anthony of Padua Catholic Primary School

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy



This policy was adopted by the governing body of St Anthony of Padua Catholic Primary School	<b>Date: September 2024</b> <b>Review Date: September 2026</b>
<b>By Name:</b>	<b>Nicola Spragg</b>
<b>Position and signature :</b>	 <b>Chair of Governors</b>

***‘Following Jesus, we love, learn and serve’***

## **Mission Statement:**

Our mission as a Catholic School is to inspire all children to achieve their full potential in the living love of Christ.

## **Aims:**

### **To provide children with the opportunity to:**

- Praise and worship Our Lord.
- Reflect the values of the Gospels.
- Plan, deliver and evaluate their own personal contributions to Prayer and Liturgy.
- Respond to and participate in the worship offered.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Celebrate God working within us.
- Understand the need for, and importance of prayer.

**Opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy at St. Anthony of Padua follow various formats and are held at different times each day. Formats include:**

- 1. Daily Prayer and Liturgy in each class according to archdiocesan recommendations.**
- 2. Class prayer time**
- 3. Whole School Prayer and Liturgy on Mondays and Fridays.**
- 4. Class gathering for a Mass, Service or Liturgy**
- 5. Key Stage gathering for the above**
- 6. Whole School gathering for the above**
- 7. First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Celebrations.**
- 8. Celebrating prayer through music**
- 9. Celebrations during Religious Education Branches**
- 10. Opportunities to develop staff spirituality.**

*We invite all members of our community to participate in Collective Worship, regardless of belief, ability or background, and we work hard to make it relevant and rewarding for all.*

### **1. Daily Prayer and Liturgy in Class:**

Each class gathers together for a period of Prayer and Liturgy on days when no whole school Prayer and Liturgy is planned. The duration of this gathering depends on the age of the child. A guide for this would be approximately one minute for the age of each child. All classes have a focus area. Teachers provide children with quality experiences of Prayer and Liturgy by setting an appropriate atmosphere, ensuring active participation and providing a focus using symbols, candles etc. Children are also encouraged to lead and plan as far as possible using a wide range of suitable resources.

In Key Stage 1, children take increasing responsibility for selecting resources from a selection provided by their teacher, reading scripture, leading prayers and setting out and tidying away prayer resources.

Throughout Key Stage 2, children are given increasing responsibility in selecting appropriate resources around a theme, choosing prayers, scripture and music and in evaluating their plans.

By the end of Key Stage 2, children are confident in planning, delivering and evaluating appropriate Prayer and Liturgy.

A list of possible themes for each week of the year is available incorporating key religious feasts, whole school values and “Virtues and Values” themes.

Children and teachers may wish to include themes from “Religious Education” topics and themes, the liturgical year, events within our school and classes, national or world events, or any other appropriate areas.

Teachers have a list of relevant and appropriate scripture to choose from which the RE Lead passed on from archdiocesan training.

Prayer and Liturgy is planned for and evaluated.

## **2. Class prayer time.**

Children also pray together in class at the end of each day and before lunch. Formal prayers, or children’s own prayers can be used.

## **3. Whole School Prayer and Liturgy**

The whole school, including staff, gather in the hall on Monday and Friday mornings for Prayer and Liturgy. Themes introduced on Mondays may be followed in class Prayer and Liturgy throughout the week. On Fridays, this is followed by a celebratory assembly led by the Head teacher. There is a great emphasis on developing our mission statement through reflecting on Gospel values, on moral development through sharing examples of kindness, consideration and good behaviour. Self – esteem and responsibility are promoted. Children share their talents & achievements.

## **4/5/6. Class / Key Stage or Whole School Masses / Services / Assemblies**

The whole school, class or key stage gather for the above in class, the school hall or Church. We mark the celebration of a school event or a Holy Day in the church’s calendar. Parents and parishioners are invited to many of these celebrations.

## **7. Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme Celebrations**

The school seeks to support the parish in its work preparing children for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The whole school and parish community celebrates these Sacraments with the children during the Mass of Saints Peter and Paul.

## **8. Celebrating Prayer through Music.**

Music makes a powerful contribution to Prayer and Liturgy at St Anthony of Padua School through singing, for example during our Christingle celebrations in Church and our Key Stage 1 Nativity, and in Masses/liturgies. Each class has a CD of hymns which can be used in class Prayer and Liturgy. All classes have access to John Burland CDs.

## **9. Resources**

Each class has a focus area which the children organize. All classes have access to whiteboards, internet resources (“Come and See”, CAFOD), God’s Story, Church’s Story, Archdiocesan CD, John Burland CDs and their own artefacts. Posters, fabrics, candles, hymn books and CDs are stored centrally. RECO provides regular updates on available resources.

## **10. Staff Spirituality**

Staff are invited to participate in “Prayer and Liturgy” in order to support and develop their own spirituality. This may be through termly “Religious Education” reflections, attendance and participation in school Masses and liturgies, Mission retreat days, archdiocesan training and in spirituality INSET.

## **Prayer and Liturgy Involves:**

- Music
- Prayer
- Words
- Scripture
- Silence
- Symbolic Action
- Suitable Environment
- Ministry
- Gesture

Not every celebration will involve all of the above elements. Some parts will be done by all, others by individuals.

## **Planning:**

Planning sheets for Acts of Prayer and Liturgy are available based on the four part structure of:

- **Preparation** – When, where, who, what? What resources will I need? Create focus, Send invitations.
- **Gather** – How will we begin/enter – to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Use a ‘gathering chant’, come in procession.
- **Listen** – Reading from scriptures, psalms etc. Pause at times for quiet contemplation. Dramatise the readings. – Power Points/visual prompts could be used.
- **Respond** – What do participants do? Quiet reflection, formal/informal prayer/respond to bidding prayers. Place stone at foot of cross etc.
- **Go forth** – What will I do to help those present take the message away with them – prayer card, picture, common prayer, action etc.

## **Helping Children to plan:**

### Gather

- What music might you play?
- How will you arrange the children?
- Will you light the candle(s)?
- Can you find an appropriate picture/poster/artefact? – explain it.

### Listen

- Who will read it?
- What scripture will you read?
- Will you act out the reading?
- Will you use a Power Point presentation?

### Respond

- How will you help your friends to reflect on what they have read?
- Will you say prayers that need a response?
- Who will lead the prayers?

### Go forth

- What do you want your friends to take away from this Act of Worship to remember this message?

All staff receive training either through the archdiocese or through staff meetings. RE lead also provides demonstrations and additional support as required. Prayer and Liturgy is moderated and evaluated.

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. The review will assess its implementation and effectiveness and take into account any recent new guidelines.

This policy was devised in consultation with staff and Governors of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Primary School.