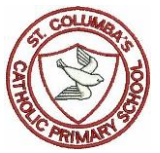
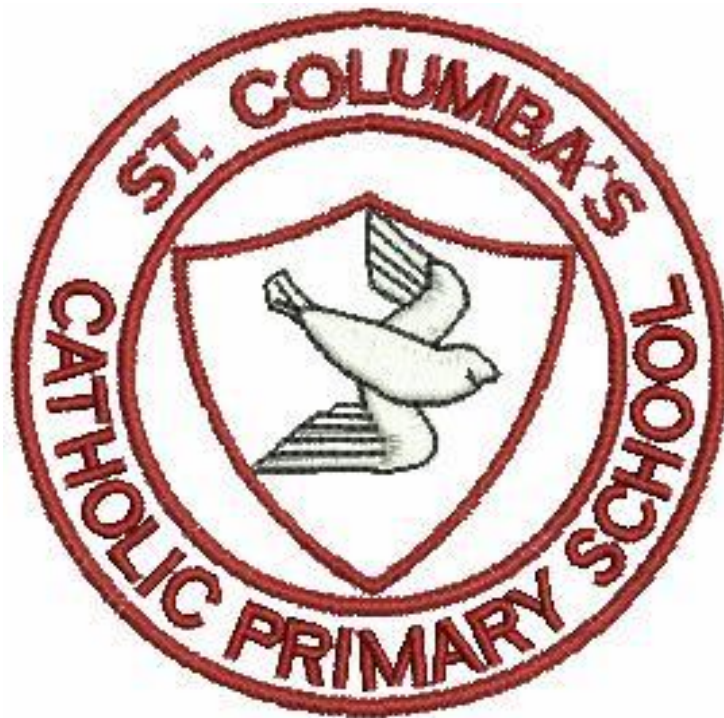


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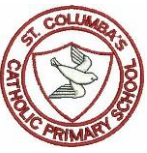
# St Columba's Catholic Primary School



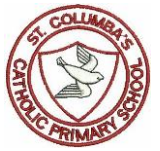
## Prayer and liturgy policy

Reviewed by Miss L Potter (R.E Co-ordinator), Mrs S Hamlin (Prayer and liturgy Lead) and Mrs M Boardman (Chair of Governors) (January 2023)

Next review date: January 2025



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## St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

### Prayer and liturgy Policy

#### What is prayer and liturgy?

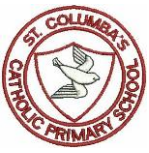
Prayer and liturgy is the opportunity to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and a chance for children to explore their own beliefs. At St Columba's Catholic Primary School, prayer and liturgy is at the heart of our school and is an enjoyable educational activity. It is the gathering of children and staff for the purpose of worshipping, praising, thanking, celebrating, and deepening our relationship with God.

The school is a Catholic foundation and therefore, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it reflects and follows the traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart. The worship includes all those who seek to explore and deepen their spiritual beliefs, enabling all members of the community to reflect upon their shared understanding.

All children are involved and given an opportunity to respond in an act of worship each day. It gives all involved an opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God, the wonder of life, to share our common aims and to demonstrate our community spirit. On these occasions, children are given the opportunity to participate and respond.

#### Who is responsible for prayer and liturgy?

- The Religious Education Co-ordinator and the Headteacher, who will ensure that prayer and liturgy is provided for each child every day.
- Teachers, who will plan and deliver prayer and liturgy daily.
- Pupils, who will take part in the daily act of prayer and liturgy and have the opportunity to plan their own sessions to deliver to their class.
- Governors who will meet with Religious Education Co-ordinator to be kept informed of the curriculum, events and may be invited to participate in prayer and liturgy.
- Parents who may be invited to participate in prayer and liturgy.



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## The Place of prayer and liturgy in the Life of our School

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an experience to which all can contribute to and from which all can gain.

## Where will prayer and liturgy take place?

At St Columba, prayer and liturgy takes places in many different places such as:

- Classroom
- Hall
- Playground
- Out in the open (grassy areas etc)

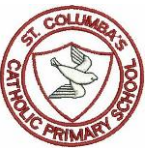
## What are the aims and objectives of prayer and liturgy?

The aims of prayer and liturgy in our school are:

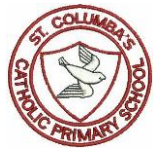
- To promote and develop an appreciation of more active participation in prayer, liturgy and worship, relevant to the age and experience of each child.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To reinforce positive attitudes towards prayer.
- To develop links with the parish community.
- To reinforce Home/ School/ Parish links.

The objectives of prayer and liturgy in our school are:

- To provide a daily act of worship for pupils and teachers.
- To provide a prayer centre for each classroom.



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- To provide opportunities for reflection and silent prayer.
- To encourage a variety of methods of prayer.
- To gather together to celebrate the special times of the school calendar and liturgical year.

### How is prayer and liturgy organised?

Arrangements for prayer and liturgy are established by the Head teacher and Senior Management Team, in consultation with the staff. During the week, the children gather in their own class group and once a week the whole school gathers together as part of the whole school assembly.

### Prayer and liturgy in the class group

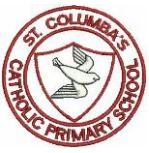
- Prayer and liturgy is delivered during the day, at a time which is most appropriate to creating a prayerful and meaningful atmosphere. The class teacher decides at which point this takes place and the time allocated will be calculated using the scale of one minute for each year of the children's age. Within this time, there will be opportunities for quiet reflection as well as formal prayer.
- Teachers are provided with a class theme for the week, which can be used, adapted or enhanced to suit the needs of their class. Themes are based on the Come and See programme, seasonal feasts, special events, or Scripture. The class teacher is encouraged to use their own discretion to adapt and respond to the current needs of their class. To encourage a prayerful atmosphere, use is made of a focus point, music and/or candles.

### Children Planning prayer and liturgy

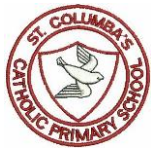
- The teacher should always prepare and lead most acts of prayer and liturgy and be an excellent role model for children to emulate. The children will lead various parts of prayer and liturgy. For instance, they may read scripture or lead in prayer, but the facilitator will always be the teacher.

### Whole School Assemblies

- Prayer and liturgy takes place during the whole school assembly. It is usually lead by the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher. Children are encouraged to make



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contributions and personal responses towards the theme of the Worship, which is usually based on scripture. Other stimuli for thought are special events, special dates or the Liturgical Calendar. At the appropriate time, the leader will begin the act of prayer and liturgy. It is brought to a close with the children reflecting on the message they should take from the session and a resolution to move forwards. This is then offered to the Lord in prayer and often through song.

### When will prayer and liturgy take place?

Prayer and liturgy does not take place at a specific time each day. For each class, it take place at the most appropriate time to ensure it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity to be close to God.

### What are the theme and content for prayer and liturgy?

Each week, a topic/ theme will be chosen. These may be related to the Come and See topics and therefore, could take place during the Rejoice part of the programme. Themes for the worship will also take into account the liturgical season/ feast days.