



St. Francis Xavier's RC Primary School

Love one another as I have loved you

John 15:12

Prayer Policy

Our Mission

Share God's love with one another

Follow your dreams

Excel in citizenship

Our Mission is to:

- Be a witness to the values, teaching and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church
- Promote achievement and enjoyment for all
- Expect the best for individuals
- Inspire learning
- Collaborate with the community
- Promote a healthy and safe life style
- Create a sustainable school
- Continually strive to be effective

'Children have a natural aptitude for prayer. They are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, anger and disappointment and elation to the world around them. The world of creation is new to them and their days are full of endless exploration and discovery.'
'Come and See'

At St. Francis Xavier's School we aim to help our children to sustain and deepen their natural aptitude for prayer and to understand that prayer is our way of deepening our relationship with God. Each child's home and daily situation is different so each child prays out of this difference. To help children to discover their own comfortable way of prayer, they will be introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer;

- Traditional prayer
- Christian Meditation
- Litanies
- Hymns
- Prayer services and Liturgies
- Celebrations
- Bodily prayer (Raising hands, bowing, genuflecting)

- Praise and worship
- Repetitive Prayer
- Scripture
- Contemplation
- Praying the Psalms
- Prayer of the Heart (Stillness to listen to God)
- Gestures (Sign of the Cross, sign of peace)
- Music (listening to reflective music)
- Use of visual images

Each day the children will spend a short time in prayer, this may be during whole school worship or class collective worship (see Collective Worship Policy). During this time children will say the Morning Offering: -

O God my loving Father,
 I give to you,
 All that I think, or say or do.
 I want to join it with all that was done,
 By Jesus Christ, your dearest Son.
 Amen

At lunchtime children will say Grace before meals and after meals in the dining hall:

Bless us O Lord,
 as we sit together.
 Bless the food we eat today.
 Bless the hands that made the food.
 Bless us O Lord.
 Amen

For what we have received,
 may the Lord make us truly thankful.
 Amen

On returning to their classrooms after lunch the children meditate.

Each class will end the day with the Examen and the school end of day prayer:

God Our Father I come to say,
 Thank you for your love today.
 Thank you for my family
 And all the friends you give to me.
 Guard me in the dark of night
 and in the morning,
 send your light.
 Amen.

St Thérèse help us to do little things well,
 St Francis Xavier, pray for us.

Classroom Prayer tables/walls:

All classes have a prayer table. Class prayers are collected in a Class Prayer book during Collective Worship sessions and children are encouraged to offer spontaneous prayers to God throughout their day. Children's personal, spontaneous prayers can be placed in a Class Prayer box or envelope and these are then offered to God collectively at the end of the week. Displays around the school give children the opportunity to interact; ask for special intentions or remember those who have died especially during the month of the Holy Souls. During October and May, time will be dedicated to the rosary and a May procession takes place.

Personal Prayer Book

The children in KS2 have a personal prayer book where they are encouraged to record informal and formal prayers. Children also use their prayer books to write down their own thoughts and prayers.

Staff Prayers

Staff are invited to meet every Friday at 8.20 am to join together to listen to a daily reading and pray together. An envelope is available on the staff Prayer and Liturgy noticeboard in the staff room providing an opportunity for spontaneous prayers to be offered. These are then offered to God collectively during staff prayers each week. Staff are also encouraged to pray for the Pope's specific monthly intentions – details are available on the noticeboard. Staff pray before their staff meeting every Monday.

Prayer bags to take home:

Each class has 5 prayer bags which coincide with the Liturgical Year. The children take it in turns to take the bag home for a night to share prayers and scripture with their families.

October – Rosary bag

December – Travelling crib

March/April – Lenten bag

May – Our Blessed Lady, Mary

June/July – Bible bag

In May, the children take part in a May procession in the grounds of the school.

Teachers and children frequently share longer periods of time in their classes to reflect on R.E topics, prayers and events or issues that concern them.

Traditional Prayers:

Formal words for prayer are introduced gradually throughout each Key Stage. Children become familiar with these prayers:

- by hearing them and joining in;
- by singing them;
- by focusing on small phrases in topic work.

KS1 Prayers

Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Our Father

Morning and evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Simple responses at Mass

Greeting the Gospel

Simple litanies of thanks and praise

Prayerful reflection on the day

Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath

Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Glory be to the Father

Morning Offering

Grace at meals

Act of Sorrow

Prayers at Mass

Prayers at Baptism

Prayers for Lent

Simple examination of conscience/review of the day

KS2 Prayers

All prayers for KS1 listed above

I confess
Angelus
Benedictus (Luke:1:67-79)
Magnificat (Luke:1:46-55)
Eternal rest
Act of Contrition
The Mysteries of the Rosary
Prayers of the Mass
Penitential rite
Glory to God (Gloria)
Offertory Prayers
Eucharistic prayers from Masses for children
Holy, holy, holy
Lamb of God,
Rite of dismissal
Litany of the saints
Prayers used for sacramental rites
Prayers from the liturgy for special feast
Funeral Mass prayers
Blessing and giving of ashes
Saints' prayers eg: St Thérèse of Lisieux
Simple phrases from the psalms

Children will be encouraged to say their own spontaneous prayers of praise, thanks, saying they are sorry or asking for help. They will be introduced to ways to start and end their prayer. Children have the opportunity during Collective Worship to ask for special intentions.

This policy was reviewed October 2023. The policy was adopted by the Standards and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body of St Francis Xavier's RC Primary School on 31.3.21 and reviewed 16.1.23, 11.10.23.

The policy will be monitored biannually by members of the Senior Management Team and Chair of the Standards and Curriculum Committee. The policy will be reviewed October 2025.

Signed: *Sylvia Cockroft* 25.10.23 Chair of Standards and Curriculum Committee

Signed: *Diana Pearce* 25.10.23 Headteacher

Rach Thompson
Prayer and Liturgy Leader