



L A L E H A M L E A

A Catholic Independent Primary School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs M Reece

L A L E H A M L E A SCHOOL & NURSERY

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

This is a whole school policy which applies to all sections of the school, including Early Years Foundation Stage, Out of School Care and Clubs.

	Date	Signed
Date reviewed	January 2024	<i>M Reece</i> Acting Head Teacher
Ratified by the Board of Governors	January 2024	<i>M Ryan</i> Chair of Governors
Date of next review	January 2025	



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The Laleham Lea School Prayer:

This is our school.

Let peace live here,

May love live here,

Love of one another,

Love of mankind,

Love of life,

Love of God.

*Let us remember, that as many hands build a house,
many hearts make a school.*

Amen

Infant Child's Mission Statement:

*Please help us to be happy and kind, to always try our
best and help others do the same, as we are all
special.*

Junior Child's Mission Statement:

*We know in our school that we are all part of God's
family. We all work together to make a safe, happy
environment, where we can learn and develop our
talents to the full.*

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.



The 'act of worship' is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

As a rule, Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises. However, the Governing Body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, church grounds.

"To ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy must be at the heart of its community life. They are essential to the school's Catholic life and mission" ("To know You more clearly' The Religious Education Directory).

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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 educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. 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.

To support the development of Prayer and Liturgy at home, we send home weekly Prayer Bags, which relate to Liturgical seasons and are differentiated for year groups. Every Wednesday, each family are given a Wednesday Word newsletter which carries the Sunday Gospel into school family homes. This creates a new opportunity for the Word to be present in the homes of our school families.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to explore their own beliefs
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- to develop a common ethos and shared values
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully
- to take time out to ‘wonder at’, ‘to come to terms with’ and ‘to give worth to.’

Principles

All Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- raise our minds and hearts to God
- celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community
- be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- support learners’ spiritual development
- give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced;
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings, including outdoors;

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs M Reece

- seek to involve learners at all times in preparation and leadership.

Organisation

Children pray in different groups during the week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class prayer and liturgy timetabled in class	Whole school 8:45 – 9:15am Choir for KS2 – hymn practice	Class prayer and liturgy Timetabled in class	Class prayer and liturgy Timetabled in class	Whole school 8:45 – 9:15am

Prayer and Liturgy always follows the liturgical seasons (appendix 1). Other times of prayer and worship in the school year include:

- Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year
- A weekly Mass which one class attends on a rolling timetable
- Celebration of Feast Days – Mass in the Church or our local senior school Chapel for Holy Days of Obligation. Appropriate liturgies for other Holy Days of Obligation.
- Christmas and Easter Prayer Services – for the whole school
- Mass to pray especially for the Year 6 leavers.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, The Truth & The Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy and we place utmost importance on our response to God's message.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for collective worship for our school is (appendix 2):

- **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet gathering PowerPoint presentation, reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.);
- **Proclaim/The Word** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible.
- **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers);
- **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy can be recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- through displays, on the school website, class floor books, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.



Acting Head Teacher: Mrs M Reece

- Laleham Lea Prayer Tree in our Long Room displays children's prayers and intercessions

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the school year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This is monitored by the RE subject leader and the Senior Management Team.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school Prayer and Liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to school guidance.

Children who have completed their First Holy Communion are welcomed to receive the Eucharist at Mass. Those children who have not made their First Holy Communion receive a blessing from the priest.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At **Key Stage 1** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- whole school / Key Stage mass.

At **Key Stage 2** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety



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- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- whole school, class and year group mass.



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School Statement on Prayer and Liturgy

Laleham Lea School

It is the responsibility of every Catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to raise our mind and heart to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist learners in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Prayer and Liturgy in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

in order to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.



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Appendix 1 - Liturgies and Masses



The school will celebrate a start of year Mass and any Holy Days of Obligation that fall in term time with a whole-school mass where possible, which is pre-organised by the RE Leader, the management team and Parish Priest (if available).

At the start of each academic year, dates will be discussed and classes allocated the responsibility of organising specific masses or liturgies throughout the year. This will be done in consultation with the Parish Priest, the Head Teacher and the RE coordinator.

Masses and liturgies can take place within the John Fisher Chapel or the School Hall where all children may participate from Reception to Year 6.



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Appendix 2 - Collective Worship Format

Preparation	When, where, who, what? What resources will I need? Create focus. Send invitations.
Gathering	How will we begin / enter – to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Use a ‘gathering chant’, come in procession.
Listening	Reading from scriptures. Pause at times for quiet contemplation. Dramatise the readings / Use power point?
Responding	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.