

## Catholic Life

### **Prayer**

Prayer is an integral part of school life. In school we pray in lots of different ways:

- During the week pupils from all year groups gather together in collective worship and services.
- Prayer at regular intervals throughout the day e.g. for morning offering or grace before meals.
- There are regular circle times and prayer services in classrooms.
- Each classroom has a dedicated prayer table area which includes words from Scripture, Liturgical images, artefacts and prayers.
- Time and opportunities are given for personal prayer.
- Regular participation in Mass either in school or at St Peter's Church
- Reconciliation services during Lent and Advent
- All children have opportunities to lead prayers, readings and singing.

We work hard to include families in the prayer life of our school by encouraging them to attend assemblies and prayer services throughout the year.

### **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school. We join as a school family twice a week for whole school worship. We pray together, share and hear the Good News, celebrate our talents and gifts and praise God through song. Children show reverence during worship and an atmosphere of reflection and stillness is created.

Children join together for communal prayer in Key stages (EYFS and Key stage 1 / Key Stage 2) once a week. Children engage in Bible stories or explore Global issues.

Further celebrations include:

- Class led assemblies
- Mass in school (Parish community welcome to attend)
- Children lead Mass at St Peter's Church half termly and at monthly family Mass
- Nativities
- Ash Wednesday service – burning of palms and distribution of ashes
- Holy Week liturgies
- Reconciliation services
- Stations of the Cross
- Blessing of the school at Epiphany
- Blessing of assembly candles at Candlemas

### **Home/School/Parish Partnership**

We believe that the school alone cannot undertake a child's religious education. Religious Education begins at home at Baptism; the parents are the child's first teachers and support their child with their first religious experiences. The school works in partnership with parents and our local parishes to enrich the lives of our children.

We have regular assemblies, Masses and liturgies to which parents are always welcome. Each class has regular visits to explore our own parish church and attend Mass.

We distribute a school weekly newsletter to inform parents about school life which also includes notifying parents of Masses and liturgies and information regarding the current Virtue to Live by

We have a rich liturgical life in that the experiences we provide are wide ranging and take place in school, out of school, in Church and the wider community, and engage and involve pupils, parents, staff, governors and the parish. Our School regularly works with Parish groups such as SVP

The Celebration of the Eucharist and prayer are central in our school. The children regularly join parishioners for the celebration of Mass on a Wednesday and Holy days of Obligation at St. Peter's Church. In addition, we celebrate whole school Masses at the beginning and end of each term in school. Children actively participate in the monthly Sunday Family Mass at St. Peter's as well as School Masses held every half term.

By working together for the children; parents and teachers make this school a place which we can live out our Mission statement: 'Live and Learn as Friends of Jesus'.

### **Support for Charities**

We enable our pupils to develop an understanding of our Christian obligation to support the poor, vulnerable and those in need. Not only do we hold fundraising appeals throughout the year, but by introducing pupils to the principles of Catholic Social teaching, we also help our children to understand more about why we support the people and charities that we do. We do this by holding assemblies which teach children about related issues and also, we encourage pupils to take a lead on selecting certain good causes to champion.

We have supported CAFOD, One Can Trust foodbank (we are a collection point for donations), SVP, Cancer Research amongst others. Our newsletters outline some of these examples in further depth.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

We work very closely with the parish Catechist in preparing the children for the sacraments of reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We follow the 'I Belong' programme. I Belong is a programme which allows children to reflect the world where they live and experience faith.