



ST BERNARD'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**LITURGY AND PRAYER
POLICY**

ADVENT 2018

St. Bernard's Preparatory School

LITURGY AND PRAYER POLICY

Mission Statement

With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.

St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.

Children's Mission Statement

We follow God's footsteps through our love, work and our prayer.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE POLICY

In the light of our school mission statement we understand that the prayer and worship life of our school community is central to our Catholic tradition and an essential part of our religious experience.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We acknowledge God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit through liturgy and prayer.

Prayer and worship are the way we celebrate and develop our relationship with God. The prayer, liturgy and worship of the school are spiritual experiences which contribute to the faith journey of each individual.

'Active, conscious participation is the challenge established for worship by the Second Vatican Council'.

All who are part of our school must be able to participate actively and consciously in the worship we share as far as it is possible. Respect for the individual who does not share our beliefs is also essential.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations of various kinds help children to understand some elements of liturgy, e.g. greeting, silence, community, praise in song. They are opportunities for seeing the development of prayer throughout the school. They are happy and prayerful occasions giving many children a responsible part to play.

The worshipping nature of the school is expressed in a variety of ways:-

- Through individual and group prayer in both formal and informal styles and settings.
- Through the celebration of Eucharist/Liturgical Service which we have on a weekly basis (excluding Lent) and to which parents are invited.
- We support children preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion, Reconciliation and non-sacramental liturgical experiences.
- Through Headmaster-led assemblies.
- Collective acts of worship every day in addition to Wednesday Liturgy/Mass and Friday formal assembly to which parents are invited.
- Through the 'Come and See' programme children are encouraged to celebrate and worship life's experiences.
- Through the weekly Chaplaincy sessions held on Friday lunchtimes – alternating between Key Stages.

- Class based prayers at the beginning of the day, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. RE and prayer are interdependent and provide a joint focus for acts of collective worship.

Particular feasts celebrated at our school:-

- Guardian Angels
- St Bernard's Feast Day - celebrated at the start of term Mass
- St Peter and St Paul
- St Benedict's Feast Day - celebrated at the end of term Mass

We celebrate the liturgical year including the seasons and major Feast Days.

During the season of Lent, we celebrate class reconciliation services. Years 4 to 6 participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School Chapel, led by Canon Kevin.

PRAYER

Prayer is a central part of our life at school. It is at the heart of our celebrations and is both planned and spontaneous. Children are encouraged to pray in different ways both individually and in groups in formal and informal styles and settings. These include:-

- Quiet reflection
- Praying together
- Writing own prayers
- Prayer through music and art
- Learning traditional prayers
- Prayer through gesture
- Year 6 retreat day/Sacramental retreats
- Meditation
- Chaplaincy – Bucket Fillers

We acknowledge that our community is made up of a variety of faiths, cultures, traditions and backgrounds. All pupils should be encouraged to contribute their gifts in a spirit of offering and sharing. We recognise that we are all at different places in our faith journey and all opportunities for prayer should reflect this. Each class has a prayer area which is a focal point for prayer.

Staff prayer

- every staff meeting begins with prayer or reflection.
- New staff attend a reflection day at NORES
- Staff Retreat Days are arranged.

The 'Come and See' programme supports the development of prayer by providing a 'focus of reverence' for each topic. Formal words for prayer are gradually introduced throughout.

Prayer life is fostered by the arrangement of prayer partners for each class. We are in regular contact with the Bernardine Community through prayer, retreat days, and other forms of communication e.g. letters, email etc.

The school endeavours to encourage parents to foster the prayer life of their families through:

- Inviting parents to share in our Eucharistic and Liturgical celebrations and class led assemblies.
- Encouraging parents to see themselves as part of our worshipping community.
- Parents' newsletter each term.
- The school prayer booklet is given to new families.
- Welcome blessing for new families and staff at the start of each new school year.
- Chaplaincy – Parent 'Pause for Thought' group held during Lent
- Prayer bags

RESOURCES

Resources for worship are available in the staff resource area. Posters are located in the art cupboard of the DT room and in the Year 6 Classroom. The 'Come and See' programmes are kept by the teaching staff.

A record of collective worship and Chaplaincy is kept in the Resource area.

A capitation per annum is allocated to RE and Liturgy which includes financing liturgy, prayers and other world faith resources. Every child in Key Stage 2 has a Bible.

Staff are encouraged to invite our Bernardine Sisters, clergy and other outside speakers as appropriate.

It is hoped that a quiet area for prayer and reflection can be accommodated in the near future. Periodically, use is made of St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School chapel.

Each new member of staff will be made aware of this policy and if necessary given guidance by the Headmaster, RE Subject Leader or mentor.

ORGANISATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Liturgy, prayer and worship is promoted and monitored by the Headmaster and the RE Subject leader. All members of staff are responsible for the development of prayer life in the school.

Care must be observed by all participating in liturgies which involve candles.

All teachers are encouraged to attend the diocesan twilight termly meetings and courses are made available to all staff.

Legal Status:

- Regulatory Requirements, Part 1 Quality of Education Provided (curriculum) (teaching) of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010

Applies to:

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Related Policies:

Religious Education, Community Cohesion, Home School Parish Liaison, Chaplaincy, Moral Social Cultural Development, Spiritual Development.

Availability

This policy is made available to parents on our website www.stbernardsprep.org or a copy may be obtained from the school office on request.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster.

The Trustees will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by _____

Headmaster _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors _____

Date _____