Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust

Prayer and Liturgy Policy:

May 2023

Our Vision:

We are a community of Catholic schools together aspiring to give children an all-round education rooted in Christian values in a nurturing environment where they flourish, become lifelong learners and fulfil their potential.

Our Mission:

TOGETHER WE LOVE, WE LEARN, WE LIVE

Our Values:

- Curiosity
- Stewardship
- Resilience
- Forgiveness
- Respect
- Love

Rationale:

The gathering in prayer and liturgy of the school community is an important educational and spiritual activity and will form part of the Religious Education programme which the school has developed for its pupils.

Aims:

- To grow in Christian love through the teachings of scriptures
- To acknowledge and respect difference
- To engage and elicit response
- To forgive and to be forgiven

Legal requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily prayer and liturgy for all pupils. The prayer and liturgy is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgies, although in line with our mission statement we would encourage participation by all.

Prayer and Liturgy should be:

- Memorable and enjoyable
- Engaging and elicit response
- Well-resourced and planned

- Flexible and respond to special occasions
- Related to age, ability and background of others
- Have a sense of occasion
- Inclusive (children and staff)
- Have spiritual content
- Relate worship and prayer to aspects of their own life
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Teach children how to worship and lead worship.

Important elements of Prayer and Liturgies

- We gather: (we come together as part of God's family and make everyone welcome) – consider music, resources, setting, seating arrangements
- We listen: (God speaks to us and we listen) – biblical reading, prayer, reflection
- We respond: (we respond to the Word of God) – ritual movement, actions to song, response to prayer
- Go forth: (we want to share the Good News) – sending out, something to hold onto for daily life

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgies: (Complete for your school)

Day	**Prayer and Liturgy**
Monday	Gospel Liturgy – reading from previous Sunday
Tuesday	Whole School liturgy and music
Wednesday	Class led reflection either Teacher / pupil led
Thursday	Celebration
Friday	Values liturgy

Planning:

Prayer and Liturgies are planned following a structure of liturgical year and the wider curriculum and Gospel Values. Scripture will be the focus of most Prayer and Liturgies.

- 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 prayer and liturgies rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To enable the 'Chaplaincy Team' to advise and support the development of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school.
- Focus on prayer

Recording:

Prayer and Liturgies are recorded:

- Through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs
- Powerpoint presentations
- Videos

Monitoring and Evaluation:

At least once a term, the school's provision of prayer and liturgies will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading prayer and liturgies. This will take place through deep dives, Governor visits, discussions with pupils and staff.