

# ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ECCLESTON



## Prayer Policy

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Ratified by	RE lead m. murray

# ST JULIE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*A caring, family school where we learn, grow and walk in the footsteps of Jesus.*

In consequence of our school mission, it is a fundamental aim of St. Julie's to be an inclusive school. To be a school which:

- Is a caring community.
- Provides and respects equal opportunities.
- Offers partnership between school, parents and parish.
- Reflects upon the teachings of Christ and puts them into practice.
- Values all of the school community
- Its members show respect for themselves, each other and their learning environment.

We define an inclusive school as one where:

- Everyone, irrespective of age, gender, ability or disability, race or religion is encouraged and given equal opportunity to participate in the full life of the school.
- All of the school community are given the opportunity and support to achieve their true potential.
- All of the school community, and the contributions they make to the life of the school, are valued; everyone is treated with mutual respect, care and consideration.
- Everyone feels empowered to play a full and effective role in the school.

## Purpose:

This policy outlines how prayer shapes daily life at St Julie Catholic Primary School and how it contributes to the Catholic Life and the Mission of the school. It ensures that prayer is woven throughout the school day and support children in developing a personal relationship with God.

Prayer is central to the school's identity as a Catholic community and reflects the school's mission to live and grow together in God's love.

## The Importance of Prayer in St Julie Catholic Primary School

Prayer is central to the life of a Catholic school and is a visible expression of its Catholic Life and Mission. Through prayer, pupils encounter Christ, grow in faith, and are formed spiritually and morally. We ensure that there **are rich, meaningful and regular opportunities for prayer and reflection**, enabling our pupils to grow as missionary disciples within the Church.

Prayer supports pupils to:

- Develop a personal and communal relationship with God.
- Grow in understanding of Catholic beliefs and traditions.
- Reflect on their actions in the light of Gospel values.
- Experience belonging within a worshipping community.

## Daily Prayer at St Julie ( Intent, Implementation and Impact)

### Intent

Prayer is an integral part of each day and reflects the school's commitment to placing Christ at the centre of all that we do. Daily prayer nurtures faith, promotes spiritual growth, and ensures that pupils encounter God regularly.

### Implementation

Daily prayer includes.

- Morning Prayer
- Grace before meals
- Going home prayer
- Spontaneous prayers and shared intentions
- Scriptural reflection and quiet meditation

### Impact

Children are taught traditional Catholic prayers appropriate to their age and are encouraged and supported to write and lead their own prayers.

As a result, pupils:

- Participate confidently and reverently in prayer.
- Use the language of prayer with increasing fluency.
- Demonstrate spiritual awareness and reflection.
- Show respect for silence, stillness, and worship.

## Prayer and Daily Rhythm

Pope Francis reminds us.

:

*“Dear friends one of the most effective ways we have to help is that of prayer. Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters and reminds us of the beautiful truth which we sometimes forget.”*

As with every relationship, our relationship with God grows through communication. Prayer is how we communicate with God.

Prayer involves:

**Listening** – being attentive to the voice of God in every moment.

**Speaking** – expressing the deepest longings of our hearts to God.

**Reflecting** – thinking about our relationship with God.

**Resting** – being consciously present with God, knowing we are loved.

## Prayer in the Classroom

Each classroom has a dedicated prayer area which reflects the Catholic identity of the school.

These areas include:

- A cross or crucifix
- A Bible
- A candle
- Liturgical colours appropriate to the Church’s season

Classroom prayer experiences include scripture sharing, guided meditation, reflective silence, and seasonal devotions such as the Rosary.

The school community gathers regularly for shared prayer experiences, including assemblies with prayer, reflection and celebration linked to Gospel values.

Prayer stations are available both inside and outside the school, allowing pupils opportunities for reflection and personal prayer with God.

## Inclusion and Respect for All

Prayer at St Julie is inclusive and respectful of pupils from all faith and backgrounds. Practices are clearly explained, and reasonable adaptations are made to ensure accessibility for pupils with SEND.

## **Staff as Models of Prayer**

All staff play a vital role in nurturing the prayer life of the school. Every member of staff is expected to:

- Actively engage with pupils in prayer
- Ensure regular opportunities for prayer.
- Provide meaningful and varied prayer experiences.
- Assist pupils in developing the language of prayer.
- Teach traditional prayer of the Church.
- Help pupils to develop habits of personal and communal prayer.

Through these pupils will be supported to:

- Contemplate the mystery of God.
- Reflect on moral and spiritual issues.
- Explore their own beliefs.
- Experience a sense of belonging and community spirit.
- Develop a shared ethos and common values.
- Enrich their religious experiences.

Staff model reverence, confidence and reflection during prayer. New staff receive guidance and support in leading prayer within a Catholic setting.

Staff pray together regularly, including during staff meetings, governor meeting, INSET days, and at time of need or celebration. Staff participate fully in Prayer and Liturgy sessions and act as positive role models for all children.

## **Partnership with Parents and Parish**

Parents are encouraged to pray at home with their children and to support the prayer life of the school.

During Advent, pupils participate in the *Travelling Nativity* to promote prayer at home.

During October and May, pupils take home rosary beads and prayers to share at home.

The parish priest may join school prayer sessions and families are invited to shared prayer gatherings and celebrations.

## **Monitoring and Support**

THE R.E. and Prayer Lead support staff, ensures prayer spaces reflect the liturgical year and gathers pupil voice.

Mini Vinnies and Worship Welcomers support the development and upkeep of prayer spaces across the school.

## Prayers Used Throughout the School

### EYFS

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Grace Before Meals
- Going Home Prayer

### KS1

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Grace Before Meals
- Going Home Prayer
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Simple Phrases from the Psalms

### KS2

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Grace Before Meals
- Going Home Prayer
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Eternal Rest
- Simple Phrases from the Psalms

#### **Morning Prayer.**

Dearest Lord, throughout today guide my words and work and play. Bless my friends and family too and keep me safe in all I do. Amen

#### **Grace Before Meals KS2**

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive from thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Grace Before Meals KS1**

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

Bless us, O God. Amen.

**Going Home Prayer**

God Our Father, we 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

**Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

**Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Act of Contrition**

O my God,  
Because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,  
And with the help of your grace,  
I will not sin again.  
Amen

**Eternal Rest**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.