



Prayer Policy

Policy Agreed	November 2019
To be Reviewed	
Written by	Miss Hussain
Signed	
Designation	

ST MALACHY'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Malachy's is a Catholic School where we will all do our best to do the work of Jesus.

We will study, pray, play and celebrate together.

We will care for each other and look after each other, just like a big family. It is important to remember that we are all good and clever in different ways.

We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.

In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

St Malachy's School Mission Statement

- St. Malachy's is a Catholic School where we will all do our best to do the work of Jesus.
- We will study, pray, play and celebrate together.
- We will care for each other and look after each other, just like a big family.
- It is important to remember that we are all good and clever in different ways.
- We will learn important lessons that will help us when we are grown up.
- In our school, it will be fun and we will strive to make it a safe place.

St Malachy's School Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks for our school for it is a special place.

Fill it with faith, hope, joy, peace and love.

As we learn and as we play, help us to find our gift and share it with the world.

St. Malachy pray for us...

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults at St. Malachy's R.C. Primary Schools are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Within this, children have the right to be treated equally in line with the equality duty was created under the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, all staff at St Malachy's aim to teach children about worship in order to promote a positive relationship between themselves and God as well as developing their full potential as part of the community. This is in order to promote tolerance and respect of different faiths, which in turn, promotes community cohesion now, and in later life. Through this policy, we aim to create and maintain a safe learning environment where all children feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously. Additionally, under the Education Act 2002, schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils and are committed to the guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2019.' Our policy ensures that we comply with our Statutory Duties.

PRAYER

Prayer is an integral part of school life at St Malachy's, and is not separated from the rest of school life. Therefore, children who belong to the school will share in the prayer life of the school. Children have a natural aptitude for prayer and are open to God. They respond in many ways to the world around them and their school life is full of endless exploration and discovery. Teachers must create an environment where these responses are developed as the beginnings of prayer. Each classroom has a special and visible prayer and worship area which support children in their communication with God. Throughout the school each class' prayer and worship has a planned focus for each half term which is linked to the liturgical year (see St Malachy's Liturgy and Para-liturgy overviews).

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND INCLUSION

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate access prayer.

PRAYER EXPERIENCES

The forms and styles of prayer that children experience is varied:

- Traditional Prayers e.g. Hail Mary
- Repetitive prayer phrases
- Praying the psalms "I thank you for the wonder of my being." (Psalm 139)
- Scripture - reflections on this
- Bodily prayer - genuflecting
- Prayer of the heart - stillness "Be still and know that I am God."
- Contemplation
- Gestures e.g. the sign of the cross and the sign of peace
- Hymns, both modern and traditional
- Music - listening to quiet reflective music or other
- Litanies - e.g. Thanks be to God
- Processions - Gospel processions with sung acclamation
- Prayer services and liturgies
- Celebrations - gathering in prayer, song, scripture, sharing food and celebrating all aspects of life
- Use of visuals - art, banners, displays,

WORDS FOR PRAYER

Children are taught that prayer can be an everyday way of praising, thanking, asking and saying sorry. Children are taught to use prayer to ask for God's help in times of difficulty e.g. if somebody is sick or dying.

Over time, children learn formal prayers. Each key stage has age appropriate prayers.

DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO PRAYER

Knowing prayers by heart is a gift for life. Those prayers marked * are ones that children will learn to say from memory

Foundation Stages (Aged 3-5)

- Sign of the cross *
- St Malachy's school prayer
- Hail Mary
- Our Father
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Simple responses at Mass
- Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)
- Simple litanies of thanks and praise
- Prayerful reflection on the day
- Prayers for the blessing of the Advent wreath
- Prayers for the lighting of the Advent candles

Key Stage 1 (Aged 5-7) All those listed above, and:

- Sign of the cross *
- St Malachy's school prayer*
- Hail Mary*
- Our Father*
- St Malachy's School Prayer
- Glory be to the Father*
- Morning Offering*
- Grace at Meals*
- Act of Sorrow
- Mass responses*

Key Stage 2 (Age 7-11) All those listed above, and:

- I confess*
- Eternal rest*
- Act of contrition*
- The mysteries of the Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Prayers at Mass:
- Penitential Rite
- Glory to God (Gloria)
- Offertory prayers
- Lamb of God
- Holy holy, holy*
- Some simple phrases from the psalms