

## **Prayer Policy for St Peter's Catholic Primary School**

### **Our Mission Statement:**

*St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ-centred community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated with joy, and is truly valued.*

*We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love.*

*We embrace the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our local, national and global families.*

*When we welcome the child, we welcome the family.*

*We strive for excellence in all we do, to be the very best that we can be.*

“Teaching the young how to pray, and not simply requiring them to pray at set times and on certain occasions is both profoundly educational and spiritually invigorating. It is the most direct and positive way to help the young discover their inner selves and begin a lifelong process of growth.” Cardinal Basil Hulme

### **Words of Prayer**

At St Peter's School, we aim to provide children with the language of prayer, i.e. praising, thanking, asking, saying sorry, meditation and quiet reflection.

### **Formal Words for Prayer**

*Children become familiar with prayers by:*

- Joining in with class prayers and Collective Worship.
- Singing hymns.
- Joining in with the Penitential Rite, Bidding Prayers, responses and Eucharistic Prayers in whole school masses.
- Making up their own prayers for class Masses and Collective Worship.
- Valuing the time given in class for their own quiet reflection.
- Joining the school and parish family by saying the Rosary and Stations of the Cross before school during Lent, and in the month of October.

*Children can be introduced to the gestures of prayers by:*

- Making the Sign of the Cross.
- Genuflecting.
- Crossing their heads, lips and heart in preparation to receive the Gospel
- Bowing their heads.
- Joining their hands.
- Holding and shaking hands.
- Carrying out gesture or sign language to reflect the words of a prayer

Opportunities for quiet, reflective prayer and stilling exercises will be given where possible or appropriate. The children have opportunity to go and pray at morning break.

### **Prayers that the Children Know.**

We all have our own favourite prayers that we say with our classes. By the time the children reach Y6, they will have been introduced to a variety of different prayers and have the experience of personal and spontaneous prayer. Children will have begun to have responsibility for preparing liturgies.

### **Traditional and Contemporary Prayers to Which the Children Have Been Introduced**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

The Sign of the Cross

Grace Before Meals – a prayer die or card may be used

Prayer to welcome new babies

Eternal Rest

School morning offering and goodnight prayer

Responses: St. Peter *pray for us*, In the love of *God and Neighbour*

The Angelus

### **Simple Responses with which the Children are Familiar**

The Lord be with you... And with your spirit

Lord hear us.... Lord graciously hear us

Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayer

Lord, we are sorry.

Parts of the Gloria.

The Sign of Peace.

Eucharistic prayers for children.

Phrases from the psalms.

Simple act of contrition (sorry prayer)

Simple examination of conscience.

Lunch time prayer

### **Places for Prayer**

Classroom, hall, church, chapel, bedroom, anywhere and everywhere.

### **Grace Before Meals**

For health and strength and daily food, we praise your name, O Lord.

### **Morning Prayer**

Father in heaven I give you today, all that I think and do and say.

I give you the good times as well as the bad, the times when I'm happy, the times when I'm sad.

Fill me with grace and make me strong, with you by my side I won't go wrong.

**Evening Prayer**

God our Father, I come to say thank you for your love today  
I 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.

**Eternal Rest**

Eternal rest, give unto him/her/them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon  
him/her/them. May they rest in peace, 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.

**Mrs. K. Ryan in consultation with staff – May, 2019**

**Review - May, 2022**