

# St Teresa's Catholic School

## 'Celebration of the Word Ladder'

'Supporting children to prepare and lead  
Prayer and Liturgy'



# Our Expectations



- Teachers should be excellent role models on delivering prayer and liturgy for children to emulate;
- Teachers should withdraw their input gradually at the appropriate time - given the age, capacity and stage of development of the children;
- It must never detract from being an enriching experience where **glory, honour** and **praise** is given to God;

# Our Expectations

- The required elements of Celebration of the word should always be present to assist with the children's liturgical formation;
- The recommended planning format should be used for all age groups.
- Timings should always be appropriate for the age of the children.

	Prepare...
<i>We gather</i> 	How? To what? How does it start?
<i>We listen</i> 	What <b>SCRIPTURE</b> is used? How is it shared?
<i>We respond</i> 	How? include – <b>PRAYER</b> and <b>SILENT</b> reflection
<i>Going Forth</i> 	How? What? Why?
<i>Evaluation</i>	How did it go? How could it improve?

# Expectations for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2

- Teacher models and leads;
- At this age, children are facilitating the celebration of the word, rather than leading it.
- They may lead certain elements / parts;
- Reverence for the **Word of God in Scripture** should be shown and expected from the earliest years.

# Step 1 : Reception Class

*Children may...*

- Sing a gather Song;
- Make the Sign of Cross;
- Choose suitable artefacts – given a very limited choice;
- Greet everyone;
- Set up focus table;
- Pass things round;
- Say prayers;
- Say who/what they want to pray for.



## Step 2 –Year 1

All of Reception's points as well as:



- Choose suitable artefacts from a less limited selection;
- Given the theme, choose an appropriate way to Gather / Go forth from a limited selection
- Teacher-input to help

# Step 3 –Year 2

**All of Year 1's points as well as:**

- Can explain the purpose, theme and focus;
  - Using the class resources, can choose a suitable..
- Gather
  - Listen
  - Reflect and
  - Go Forth.



# Years 3 – 6

- Teachers should be excellent role models in preparing and delivering Prayer and Liturgy.
- Teachers and pupils work together at first to prepare celebration of the word. Teachers withdraw support gradually and pupils take over.
- Teachers direct what happens and withdraw direction gradually and pupils take over.
- Teachers should provide themes and Scripture and oversee the children's efforts before delivery. Teachers can withdraw this provision if appropriate.

# Step 4 – Year 3 and 4

All of Year 2's points as well as:

*Children may...*



- provide a suitable focus without limit of choice.
  - they understand their choice and can make appropriate use of liturgical colours;
  - lead singing;
  - work I.C.T. equipment etc.;
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- write prayers and petitions etc. to be used during celebration of the word that fit in with the relevant theme;
  - make full use of class resources to choose suitable ways to Gather, Listen, We reflect, Go Forth etc.

## Step 5 – Year 5 and 6

**All of Year 3 and 4's points as well as:**

- given the set theme, pupils can now select appropriate Scripture passages (initially from a limited selection);
- by end of Y6, all elements should be in place. Pupils should be able to develop all parts of Prayer and Liturgy independently with understanding when given a theme or a passage from Scripture.



# Child Led Celebration of the Word

Some will be more able / willing than others.

There should be no coercion, but all children should have the opportunity to prepare / lead celebration of the word if they wish to do so at the teacher's discretion.

# Evaluations



- Celebration of the Word should be evaluated
- The **children** should evaluate their **own** Celebration of the Word.
- Others should sometimes be asked to evaluate in an appropriate manner:
  - What did you enjoy?
  - What would you have done?

*(Avoid – ‘How could we make this better?’)*