



**DUNHOLME ST CHAD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Creating a community with open hearts and open minds

# Prayers



## Introduction

Each child and young person is unique and has different life experiences.

In school we use prayer in collective worship and at other parts of the school day. Children are taught the meaning of 'Amen' and are invited to say Amen if they want to make the prayer their own.

Opportunities to pray in ways that are appropriate to their development and experience of faith, and to how they engage with God, are provided in school. This is through spontaneous prayer, prayer for different times in the church year for example Advent and Lent, The Lord's Prayer and our school prayer.

Prayer, as with all worship, is invitational and there is no expectation of children or adults to participate.

Opportunities to pray enables us to reflect on our own actions, values and attitudes.

## What is prayer?

Prayer is all about communication. It is a conversation with God. It is not just a one-way

conversation; God wants us to listen to Him, to hear His still, small voice. Prayer is very important in

the Christian faith and is mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.

There are a number of reasons why prayer is important:

1. It gives us the opportunity to share our lives with God. He is interested in how we feel, what we are worried about, who we are worried about. He is interested in the good things in our lives and the things that are not so good. He wants us to share our joys and triumphs with Him. Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call to me and I will answer you." God wants us to be close to Him all the time James 4:8 encourages us to "draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."

2. It gives us an opportunity to say thank you to God. To say thank you for all that He provides: the beauty of creation, the love of our families, the joy of friendship, His love for us, his care for us for example. I Chronicles

16:34 commands us to "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

3. It gives us an opportunity to say sorry and ask God for help to do the right thing. It can be hard to admit when we are wrong, to recognise that we might have said something unkind or acted in an unkind way. In the Bible these actions are called sins. Prayer gives us the opportunity to find forgiveness for these thoughts, words and actions. John 1:9 says that "if we confess our sins, He is just and will forgive our sins." We can also ask God to help us to do the right thing. Psalm 121:2 reminds us that "my help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

4. It is an act of worship- it is central to Christian worship and is one of the most important things a Christian is called to do. It helps us to focus on something or someone other than ourselves. To give praise and thanks to God for all He is and all He has done. Psalm 107:2 encourages us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

## What does prayer look like at our school?

As a church school, we value the opportunity for moments of Prayer throughout the school day.

We aim for it to be 'a natural and valued part of the culture of the school.' This may be in whole-school collective worship, during class reflection as a response to 'Big Questions', or other times during the day when the children might think about something they would like to pray about or someone they would like to pray for. Each classroom has an area where children can write their own spontaneous prayers to God. Some classrooms have prayer bags with templates the children can use, others have prayer trees.

We find it helpful to think about the different types of prayer and how they help us to be a praying community.

**BLESSING:** asking for God's protection on person, place, object, event.

This is when we ask God to protect, and can be in response to world events for example war and conflict, environmental issues, people in need.

**PRAISE:** Prayer giving God glory because of who He is.

Praise helps us to think about the Greatness of God, to praise him for all that He has done. An example of this may be during Collective worship when a prayer might be said praise God for the beautiful world that we live in.

**THANKSGIVING:** Prayer of thankfulness, often for something specific and/or answered prayer.

This is when we thank God for all he is and how he provides us with all that we need. An example of this is our lunchtime prayers. Some classes have a prayer that they have written as a class and others have individually written prayers that are said at lunchtime.

**PETITION:** asking for something, e.g. attitude (courage, peace, wisdom, patience)

God is interested in our needs and petition is when we ask God to help us as individuals. Children might write a prayer of petition in response to the 'Big Question' of the week, for example - praying for courage to speak up about issues surrounding bullying or friendship or they might ask God to help them in their school work particularly things they are finding difficult.

**CONFESSION:** when we own up to things we have done wrong and ask God to forgive us.

This might be praying as a community for things that humans do that are wrong i.e. not looking after the world or prayers that are quite personal and the opportunity in each class for children to write prayers during the school day is important for this type of prayer.

**INTERCESSION:** when we pray for others.

This is when we pray for the needs of others. This might take place during class reflection, in answer to the 'Big Question' of the week or during collective worship when we are thinking about a variety of issues.

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name,  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For the Kingdom, the power  
And the glory are Yours  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.

