Creative prayer ideas for pupils with SEND - *additional notes for leaders*

Our Mission Together *Creative prayer ideas for pupils with SEND* have been specially created in partnership with *Remarkably Made Catechesis* to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Please feel free to make your own adaptations to meet the needs of your child or group.

References to key documents

'Pupil leadership of prayer and liturgy may not be independent of the support pupils receive from adults. This adult support should both be interpreted as the ability of pupils in special schools to prepare and lead prayer and liturgy in a way that is appropriate to their age and capacity.'
Catholic Inspection Handbook, September 2025, para.160

'There is no such thing as spiritual impairment or a hierarchy of souls: all of us experience vulnerability and need at some time. Pupils at special schools may have cognitive or other impairments but their capacities for spiritual growth and engagement are unlimited. In Catholic special schools the Gospel is expressed through the mutual service of everyone in the community. This is a spiritually enriching experience for pupils and staff, with Christ at its heart. Special schools evangelise by bearing witness to the dignity and value of every person, inspired by the love and compassion of Christ.'
Read paragraph 154 in full in the Catholic Inspection Handbook, September 2025

'Persons with disabilities are called to the fullness of sacramental life, even in the presence of severe disorders. The sacraments are gifts from God, and the liturgy, even before being rationally understood, needs to be lived: therefore no one can refuse the sacraments to persons with disabilities.'
Directory for Catechesis, Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation, Chap 8, Catechesis in the Lives of Persons, para. 272

'[Adaptive teaching] focuses on the entire class while still responding to individual pupils needs. It involves knowing your pupils' prior levels of attainment and providing targeted support. It is a hallmark of good teaching and is proven to raise pupils outcomes...

Teachers can develop an understanding of pupil needs and provide opportunities for all pupils to experience success. Adaptive teaching is a helpful strategy for creating a fully inclusive classroom.

Pupils with special educational needs will need and benefit from different resources, teaching materials and strategies to access their learning in religious education.'
Read more in the Religious Education Directory Guidance for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, p14

Helpful website

For further information about prayer and worship for children with SEND please visit lightoftruth.uk