# **Involving pupils in the Mass**

Please see Westminster Education Service’s document Q&A Guidelines for Celebrating School Masses [HERE](https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mass-Guidelines.pdf) for more information on celebrating school Masses. Below you will find some ways in which pupils can take a leading role in various parts of the Mass, although it must be emphasised that all pupils are active participants through their presence and prayers as well as through joining in Communion. Consult your priest.

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| **Before the Mass** | * Children can help to set up the altar in preparation for Mass. This could be done with the priest and could include explanation. The priest may choose to put on Mass vestments in front of the children also.
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| **Introductions** | * Children can read/write their own introduction to the Mass as well as the Penitential Rite etc
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| **Penitential Rite** | * Pupils can write parts of the Penitential Rite (ie NOT including things we are sorry for but positive statements about Our Lord eg ‘You are the way leading to the Father’ Lord have mercy). The priest will then read the statements.
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| **Readings** | * Only one (as well as a psalm) is needed during the week
* Children can read or dramatise the reading
* The psalm can be sung as long as it is based on scripture
* Readings of the day can be changed if it is a special Mass (eg Beginning of school year) or if the readings are not at all relevant to children
* The Good News Translations and New Jerusalem Bibles are appropriate translations
* Lectionaries for Children may be used but this should be checked with the priest
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| **Bidding Prayers** | * These can be written and read by pupils
* They should start with the wider Church and then become more personal (Church, Leaders, Diocese, Community, Personal)
* They should begin ‘We pray for…’ or ‘For…’ or ‘Let us pray for…’ NOT names/titles of the Lord (then no Trinitarian errors)
* Spontaneous prayers can also be said
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| **Offertory gifts** | * Gifts/objects (such as books, sports equipment, mission statements, objects related to theme etc ) can be brought up at the beginning of Mass during eg opening procession and these can be explained by the children
* For the Offertory procession, should be ‘holy things for the holy people of God’ (ie the community). These would be items/gifts that are to be ‘transformed’ by the Lord for the service of others (their prayers/art etc could be used, depending on the rationale)
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| **Dance/Drama** | * This could be done after the post-Communion prayer (as long as it is suitable)
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For more information about how pupils can be involved in the Mass see
Q & A GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING SCHOOL MASSES <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mass-Guidelines.pdf>