Reflecting on Prayer: A Fact-File with Max and Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the purpose and significance of prayer within different religious traditions.

Use this fact-file to explore what prayer means to different people. You might look in your religious education books or use reliable classroom resources to help you fill in each section. Max the monkey is curious about how people solve life's challenges through prayer, and Ellie the elephant is ready to help you remember the key facts about traditions.

Word bank: devotion · reflection · meditation · gratitude · petition · community · ritual · spiritual · intercession · sacred

1. What is prayer?: Explain in your own words what prayer is and why someone might choose to pray. (2 marks)

2. Methods of Prayer: Describe two different ways people might pray (for example, using silence, singing, or specific movements). (3 marks)

3. Reasons for Prayer: Identify three different reasons why a person might pray, such as saying thank you or asking for help. (3 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: How might prayer affect a person's daily life or their behaviour towards others? (2 marks)

5. Comparison: Choose two different religions. Briefly describe one similarity and one difference in how they approach prayer. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific prayer from a religion of your choice. Write it out neatly and explain the meaning behind the words used in the prayer.