Religious vocabulary in children’s prayer language: a small-scale case study in three UK schools

Transcripts

Transliterations are approximate: some are not in English, some are partly illegible. () Round brackets contain my comments and partial glosses or translations [] Square brackets indicate my interpretation of pictures / denotes reverse side (by same or different child) N___ indicates removed name

Roman Catholic Setting

1. RC, year 1

1.1. I lv yoo (love you) for / [person with outstretched arms]

1.2. I love God and Jesue / S___

1.3. [smiley face]

1.4. To dgod I love you [scribble]

1.5. [smiling figure on cross]

1.6. God [decorated cross]

1.7. To God fankeoo (thank you) for maycahem (make home? make heaven? make them?)

1.8. [gold scribble]

1.9. I like you so much God even if im bad [smiley face, kisses and hearts]

1.10. [decorated cross]

1.11. How dowe (do) you no (know) thaat

1.12. help ELsi get happy becus her Nan is ded

1.13. To God I love you from S___ [smiling person] (folded)

1.14. nill (kneel) down and Pray / nil
2. **RC, year 3**

2.1. Please help J___ to be kinder

2.2. Dear Allah, Please make me merciful and good, giving. [outstretched hands]

2.3. Lord help me understand that I shouldn’t be scared of bad thing.

2.4. Lord please give J___ happy hands (same J___ as 2.1)

2.5. Lor


(Dear God why does everyone think that i am little. And please help me be nicer toward my mum)

2.7. Daer god can you make me fayel (feel?) betar Loved And Big / Daer god pleasa can you help my dad unghal (uncle) and mum ples leta them play betar so we all ca (end of tag) (folded)

2.8. [kisses and hearts] Please help my baby sister that is in heaven and keep my family to stay nice and safe and / have a happy life for ever and ever. Amen. [picture of family with names including ‘me’. In box at side, figure with wings above a cloud]

2.9. Thankyou for my mummy giving birth to me. How did you parten the red sea by just lifftting up your magic stick. Thank you for giving birth to my mum [hearts]

2.10. can you help me to be good (folded)

2.11. how did Jesus have God his fathe beacause mary maried somion else? So dose that mean thire (they’re) both cosons? And why do peop have birthdays on difrent days because tarst (last) time I had it on Monday Sataday now on Sataday but its son difrent why?

2.12. lets paty (party) [picture of cakes and balloons] Do you sekyoua. (speak Yoda?)

2.13. Look after My Nan Amen [kisses and hearts, sun decorations]
2.14. Please Allah, can you shelter M___ (my brother) and my family that are not in heaven (heaven) yet. Please also can you make family blessed Amen. Amen

2.15. Lord Please teach J___ to have kind hands Amen [decorations] (same J___ as 2.1)

2.16. did yoo god lduk mayk (make)

2.17. can you talk any laguig (language) in the whole world [globe with two figures and speech bubbles] 'bonjor' 'hi' / (different writing) What made you so caring and loving and respect full

2.18. can I have a baseball and a bat?

2.19. can I have a bigger house with a house and a swimming pool in the back garden

2.20. Drogi panie Bogu drzenkoge ze zafsz me hanis jzes zwemty jestes zskad la nasz denoge Bogu. / L___ T ___ J ___

(Dear Lord God thank you for always protecting me against evil. Thank you for being at school with me at all the time, God)

2.21. ploese give me all the nurf guns polese god God [catapult] / andn fortnigt for xsbosl

2.22. [hearts] Dear Allah Thank you for everything please stop the war and make paece. Amen [praying hands] Stop war and make [smiley face with finger on lips] / (different writing)
Dear Allah, Thank you for everything you gave us [heart] I want to ask if you could please stop the wars and make peace [hand] war and mak (end of tag)

2.23. is your name really Jesus

2.24. Lets [figure on pile of presents with lights] party!

3. RC, year 5

3.1. Do you like beef burgers?

3.2. How old are you God.

3.3. Do you know me. God

3.4. How do you eat?

3.5. When the world ends
Church of England Setting

4. C of E, year 1

4.1. I pray every day I love Jesus [hearts, kisses, three crosses, numbered 1, 2, 3, three kisses]

4.2. thankoo for making poele (people) a (that/our?) love grow(?) tooh (too?) [lots of numbers, scribble] H___ A___ K___ (three different children) / [scribbled out words]

4.3. Lord be a good people you are kinde you are good. [pink heart] / Ho Deiud (Yo Dude?)

4.4. H___ (tag torn)

4.5. N___ plees Lord / Jesus [smiling figure with shining body and head]

4.6. M___ [two smiling figures, one larger, one smaller] / M___

4.7. I___ god you are the speshlist pusan I have ever met [smiley face]

4.8. M___ to lorb (Lord) I hope tat (that) the dots (doctors?) hep (help) my pet wel. I hope madm (made him?) Cyoor (cure) is in hevn. M___ / [smiling figure with rainbow clothes and something over head]

4.9. dir lord (Dear Lord) fanc (thank) you for famaly and frens. / [small figure with speech bubble] wen [cross]

4.10. [large brown cross with colourful smiling figure labelled Jesus, cross also labelled] We pray of Jesus because he died ion the cross it was sad. I pray for Jesus. / I no (know?)

4.11. fenk yu for evry fing what you do for me fenk yu very march. [colourful smiling figure] / L___

4.12. [large cross containing the word ‘Jesus’] We pray for the peepl tat (that) did (died) in the wor (war)

4.13. thanck you god you are grate Nye R (?) J___ M___


4.15. Hey dowd (dude) how are you today

4.16. [large brown cross with colourful smiling figure] / I now no (know?)
4.17. thei siswot god luk slik (This is what God looks like) [colourful figure] / K___

5. **C of E, year 3 (accessible to other years)**

5.1. Dear Lord Hope (Help?) all the children with difecultyes and live on the street plus How you doing up ther god Amen [cross] From R___ year 3

5.2. (two tags tied together, one made by child the other scribed by the teacher) [scribble] / Dear God Thank you for our beautiful world. From Mrs G___ + L___ (yr 2)

5.3. please look after me Today

5.4. Everyone is different [circles] / L___ L___ (two names) you need to respect it

5.5. Dear god Please help my dad to fix his car Amen / I love you god!

5.6. Dear God thack you for this buootful wold from C___ / (different writing) Der god uyma (why am?) good

5.7. how are you God hey dude / [stick figures, one on cloud, one on knees with lifted hands]

5.8. Dear Lord I pray for the poor and homeless children and all Poor people in the world.

5.9. Dear Lord thank you for pets and family

6. **C of E, years 5 & 6 mixed class**

6.1. I miss my grandpa who NEVER met me!

6.2. What is heaven like / How did you make earth in 7 days?

6.3. What will happen in the after

6.4. Dear

6.5. What is heaven like?

6.6. What will life be with a glass dome over your town U___
Non-Faith Setting

7. Non-faith, years R, 1 & 2

7.1. Hho (how) did you make star [cloud border] (yr 2)

7.2. [heart] butterfly (reception)

8. Non-faith, years 3 & 4

8.1. What will be in Fuet (end of tag)

8.2. What will be in Future (same writing as 8.1)

8.3. Dear god, how old are you? (yr 3) / [heart]

8.4. Dear God I wish you were down in earth god is it nice in heaven? (yr 3)

8.5. Dear God wy (why) did you make the stars.

8.6. Dear god can you do the flos? (‘the floss’ is a dance move craze)

8.7. flying (yr 4)

8.8. Dear god can I do realy good scooter tricks.

9. Non-faith, years 5 & 6

9.1. Dear God Pray for the Homeless and shelter

9.2. Why aren’t unicorns real (yr 6) (folded)

9.3. Unicorns to be real (yr 6) (folded)

9.4. Pokemon To be real in england (yr 5) (folded)

9.5. Is my Granny safe (yr 5) (folded)