



Sacred Heart

Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Our mission is to create a harmonious community where each individual is a valued member who may ~ Grow in Love ~ guided by the teaching of the Catholic Church.

This policy was written:	Summer 2025
This policy will be reviewed again:	Summer 2027
Governor Committee Responsibility:	Quality of Education
Statutory policy	Yes
Source:	Governing Body

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

2. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

3. Responsibility

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy

- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Day	Prayer and Liturgy Session	Place	Led by
Monday	Themed assemblies	School Hall	Class teachers HT and DHT on rota
Tuesday	Mark 10	Classrooms	Class teachers
Wednesday	Juniors Hymn Practice Infants Class Liturgy	School Hall Classroom	HT/DHT chaplains supporting Children (age and stage)
Thursday	Juniors Class Liturgy Infants Hymn Practice	Classrooms School Hall	Children HT/DHT
Friday	Gospel and Celebration Assembly whole school	School Hall	HT with children supporting

Class prayers: prayers are said in the class at least four times a day (morning, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day). There are different prayers for Infants and Juniors. Children may be selected to lead prayers during this time. Special intention prayer times will be delivered by class teachers, when appropriate, in response to the needs of the community or to a key event. Sessions take place throughout the year in order for children to learn the traditional prayers allocated to their year group

Monday themed assemblies cover the topics of Catholic Social Teaching, School Values and British Values as well as introducing themed weeks such as Anti-bullying week or Mental Health week. We also look at other faiths and their celebrations as well as key Saints.

Tuesday Mark 10 Mission provides a reflection on the gospel for the week along with music or song.

Hymn practice takes place once a week to enrich prayer and liturgy. Singing together creates a powerful sense of community and shared purpose in deepening our faith.

Class liturgies have specific themes, which align with the liturgical year e.g. reconciliation and forgiveness during Lent. The children are expected to plan and deliver these liturgies, in line with children's growth in age and confidence. Children have the opportunity to set up prayer spaces in their classrooms in line with the Liturgical calendar.

Friday Gospel and Celebration Assembly: these assemblies provide the children with an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the Gospel for the preceding Sunday. At the end of each gospel assembly, the children are given a mission task to complete over the course of the week.

From time to time, guest speakers will be invited to lead assemblies e.g. representatives from CAFOD, CARITAS or Father Stephen our Parish Priest.

The children attend Mass at least twice each term. Over the course of an academic year, each class in Year 4 to Year 6 will lead the readings and prayers at least one mass for the school and parish community.

There are class altars in each classroom and a prayer station in the upstairs resource room and downstairs corridor, to encourage moments of prayer.

The school has a prayer garden in the infant playground area and this is usually decorated to represent the current liturgical theme.

The prayer and liturgy in the school is celebrated and shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Special events throughout the liturgical year:

Children have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation at least twice a year in Advent and Lent. Children have the opportunity to take home a travelling crib during Advent and to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.

During October and May the chaplains lead the Rosary in the prayer garden. The chaplains also offer a lunchtime prayer group.

During Holy week (where possible) the junior children lead themed assemblies on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion.

Staff attend children's First Holy Communions in their parishes and

Please see the Annual Plan of Provision for more detail. (APOP)

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

6. Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

8. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.