



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to live in the way Jesus wanted. He told us to "Love One Another as I have loved you"

We aim to fulfil our Mission by:

Living as a good news community, valuing all members equally.

With Jesus as a role model, developing in everyone a sense of self respect, belonging and respect for others.

Striving to enable all children to reach their full potential through a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum.

Working together to achieve excellence in everything we do.

Developing strong home/school and parish links.

Ensuring the success of everyone involved in the school community, nurturing their individual talents and supporting their individual needs.

Having high expectations of everyone.

Nurturing the faith journey of everyone through meaningful prayer and liturgy.

Ensuring a calm and positive atmosphere in all areas of the school.

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.'

(Bishop Marcus Stock ,2012, *Christ at the Centre*)

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; 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

Daily Prayers

Children in Reception and KS1 remind themselves that they are in God's presence by starting each day by making the sign of the cross. KS2 children start each day by praying the Our Father or the Hail Mary. These prayers are led by designated prayer leaders in each class. All children also pray before lunch and at the end of the school day, ensuring that each day starts and finishes in prayer. In addition to these prayers, each Key Stage have a progression of prayers that children will be exposed to:

Key Stage	Prayers
EYFS	Morning prayer, Lunch time prayer, Home time prayer, Sign of the Cross
KS1	As above plus Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be,
Lower KS2	As above plus Penitential Rite, Prayers of the Rosary, Morning Offering and The Gloria
Upper KS2	As above plus Come Holy Spirit, Hail Holy Queen and Apostles Creed (Y6 study)

Prayer and Liturgy Timetable

Day	Focus	Led by
Monday	Whole school Gospel assembly linked to our school values	Headteacher or RE Lead
Tuesday	Child-led collective worship in class	Children supported by teachers
Wednesday	Whole school hymn practice	Teachers on a rota
Friday	Celebration assembly	Teachers on a rota

Parental Engagement in Prayer and Liturgy

Throughout the year, families have the opportunity to engage in prayer at home. During Advent, travelling cribs are sent home and during Lent, Lenten bags are sent home. Each child in school will have the opportunity to engage with these as a family.

Eucharist and other Liturgies

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight special occasions. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximized. When preparing these celebrations, reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for good practice.

Children in Year Four/Year Five often attend weekly classes at the local church on Sundays where they are supported in their preparation for their First Holy Communion and the sacrament of Reconciliation. These sacraments are celebrated at our local church but the school work alongside the parish to help prepare our children fully.

Eucharistic Celebrations are both in school and in church celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Patrick Harrigan or a priest delegated by him. At all these celebrations both parents and parishioners are invited; to help foster links between home school and parish.

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.

Date of approval: October 2025

Date of renewal: October 2027

Chair of Governors



Headteacher

