



Policy: Prayer and Liturgy

Date: March 2025

This Policy is in keeping with The Prayer & Liturgy Directory for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges in England and Wales - *To Love You More Dearly 2023*

Date created:	March 2024, reviewed March 2025
Responsible:	Headteacher & RE/CLM/Prayer and Liturgy Leader
Date Ratified:	11 th March 2024
Responsible Committee:	Full Governing Board, under the advice of the RE/CLM/Prayer and Liturgy Lead Governor
Date to be reviewed:	Annually unless advised otherwise
Statutory Policy:	Y

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

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; 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 Leader)
- 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 Leader

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

Weekly Schedule

Monday	Virtues - Celebration of the Word	New virtue every half term <i>Year A - Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect</i> <i>Year B - Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Truthfulness</i>	Mrs Zamora
Monday	Catholic Social Teaching Principles - Celebration of the Word	Once every half term <i>Care of Creation, Community and Participation, Human Dignity, Dignity of Workers, Preferential Option for the Poor, Solidarity and Peace</i>	Mrs Zamora
Tuesday	Life to the Full sessions - prayers, scripture and song	Weekly lessons <i>Module 1 - Created and Loved by God</i> <i>Module 2 - Created to Love Others</i> <i>Module 3 - Created to Live in Community</i>	Class teachers
Tuesday	Class based Virtues session - Celebration of the Word	New virtue every half term <i>Year A - Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect</i> <i>Year B - Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Truthfulness</i>	Class teachers
Wednesday	Hymns and Liturgical Singing Practice	Hymns based on the liturgical season Glendalough Mass Setting St Bernadette Mass Setting	Mrs Molloy and Mrs Abiola
Thursday	Gospel Reflection - Celebration of the Word	Weekly sessions based on Sunday Gospel	Y1 and Y2 - Miss Hannigan Y3 and Y4 - Mrs Bond/Mrs Rodricks Y5 and Y6 - Mrs Pughe
Thursday	Come and See - end of unit worship	Every 4 th week - last week of Come and See unit	Group of children in each class will prepare and lead the class worship
Thursday	Class-based Catholic Social Teaching session - Celebration of the Word	Once every half term <i>Care of Creation, Community and Participation, Human Dignity, Dignity of Workers, Preferential Option for the Poor, Solidarity and Peace</i>	Class teachers
Thursday	Lunch-time prayer sessions in school chapel	Every Week <i>Themes such as Catholic Social Teaching, feast days of saints, Lent, Bible stories linked to the liturgical year, the Rosary and Advent, Stations of the Cross, exploring the half termly virtues through drama and prayer</i>	Staff members of Healthy Spirit Team with Prayer Mini Vinnies
Thursday/ Friday	RED celebration session	Weekly FS, Year1 and Year 6 have a weekly celebration session to conclude the weekly objective	Teachers Where appropriate children are given the opportunity to prepare and lead the worship
Friday	Celebration Assembly and prayers	Weekly	Y1 and Y2 - Miss Hannigan Y3 and Y4 - Mr Cowan Y5 and Y6 - Mr Sangle
Friday	Bridgebuilder Trust Assembly	Once every half term <i>Appreciation and wonder</i> <i>We stand or fall together</i> <i>Follow the road</i> <i>Make or break</i> <i>Prayer Spaces for Year 5 and 6</i> <i>Onwards and upwards</i> <i>It's your move - Y6 transition workshop</i>	Representatives from Bridgebuilder Trust

Annual Schedule of Masses, Liturgical Events and Services

New School Year/Harvest	Mass (September)	Led by priest and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Celebrating Catholic Education	Mass (October/November)	Led by priest at Christ the King Church and supported by St. Bernadette's children
Feast of All Saints	1 st November Celebration of the Word	Led by Mrs Zamora and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Advent Wreath Service	Monday after the first Sunday of Advent Celebration of the Word	Led by Mrs Zamora and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Reconciliations	During Advent	Conducted by priest(s) Y4-Y6 children who have taken this sacrament
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes	11 th February or Friday before this date if it falls on a Saturday/Sunday Celebration of the Word	Led by Mrs Zamora and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Ash Wednesday Service	If this falls in term time, all children will receive ashes Celebration of the Word	Led by priest/JZ and JP and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Forgiveness and Renewal Service	During Lent Celebration of the Word	Led by priest and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Reconciliations	During Lent	Conducted by priest(s) Y4-Y6 children who have taken this sacrament
St Bernadette Feast Day and/or Easter	Mass (16 th April or the first week after the Easter holidays)	Led by priest and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	40 th day of the Easter season (Thursday) Celebration of the Word	Y1 and Y2 - Miss Hannigan Y3 and Y4 - Mrs Bond/Mrs Rodricks Y5 and Y6 - Mrs Pughe
Reconciliations (For children who are preparing to make their First Holy Communion)	May	Conducted by priest(s) Y3-Y6 children who have recently received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.
Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul	29 th June Celebration of the Word	Led by Mrs Zamora and supported by Prayer Mini Vinnies
Year 6 Leavers (Year 5 children to also attend)	Mass (July)	Led by priest and supported by Year 6 children

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 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

This policy will be reviewed by the Full Governing board, under the advice of the Lead Governor for Prayer and Liturgy annually in March.