



Learn and grow together in Christ.

St. Mary's RC Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 19th March 2024 and will be reviewed on 19th March 2025.

Signed by:

Headteacher: Mr Ian Jones (19.03.2024)

Chair of Governors: Mrs Tina Bradley (19.03.2024)

St. Mary's R.C. Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Mission Statement

We aim to provide a safe, caring, Catholic community where each member is valued and respected and enabled to achieve their potential through a broad and balanced curriculum. This is summed up neatly in our school motto, **Learn and grow together in Christ.**

The context of the 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.)

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, discipline, 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(A)). 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.

Responsibility

Governors

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.

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

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 takes 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 updates with best practice.

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be open to the whole school community and opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice.

- We celebrate Mass for the whole school each term and on special Feast Days and Holydays.
- Key Stage Two classes celebrate Mass in Church during Lent
- We celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for Year 3 pupils and their families after they have made their First Holy Communion
- Pupils take an active part in Mass through reading, serving and singing.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Advent and Lent an emphasis is placed upon the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The KS2 classes have the opportunity to prepare their own act of worship which includes the opportunity to go to Confession.

In KS1 the children have more informal time in class to reflect and say sorry to God.

Weekly Celebrations of the Word

- We have a whole school Celebration of the Word Assembly on Mondays each week linked to the Sunday Gospel reading.
- We have weekly whole class/key stage Celebration of the Word. These are based on the Sunday Gospel, liturgical season, RE topic or to address issues that have arisen in class/school.
- We have a weekly whole school hymn practice and use this as an opportunity to celebrate the word through singing – linking hymns to the liturgical season, Mass, Sunday gospel.
- Weekly Picture News – opportunity to link our faith/scripture to real world events – nationally and globally.

Daily Prayer

- A daily cycle of prayers are said in each class throughout the school day (eg, in the morning, before and after meals, and at the end of the school day).
- We say additional prayers to our daily cycle of prayer as we move through the liturgical year, eg, sorry prayers in advent and lent, eternal rest in November, Rosary in October

Voluntary Prayer

- The chapel is available for voluntary prayer and liturgy through lunchtime sessions.

Prayer and Liturgy through the Liturgical Year

We plan and provide lots of additional opportunities for prayer and liturgy across the liturgical year. We plan these each term with our Prayer and Liturgy Group and endeavour to include opportunities for the whole school community. Examples include:

- October – Rosary
- November – Remembrance
- Advent– Jesse Tree, Advent Read-around, Nativities, Travelling Crib
- Lent – Prayer bags, Stations of the Cross
- Easter – Stations of the Resurrection
- May – Month of Mary, May Procession
- June – Sacred Heart

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.

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 per year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are supported to lead as required.

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 stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy and governors. Areas for development are identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

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

