



Mission Statement:

Growing Together in Faith and Understanding

Spiritual growth and academic growth go hand in hand throughout school life.

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Approved / Updated:	September 2025
Committee Responsible:	Mission and Pastoral Committee
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Through shared acts of daily worship, we celebrate our relationship with God and each other.

As we unite in our worship we remember, **“Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Mt 18v20**

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady of the Rosary celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit:

'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 (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).

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)).

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.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

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 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 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

All Holy Days of Obligation and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary are celebrated by the whole school with a Mass held in the church. Children are actively encouraged in the participation and preparation of the liturgy through readings, drama, prayers and music. Each KS2 class is given the opportunity to lead a Whole School Mass.

Pentecost is celebrated with a whole school liturgy led by the Chaplains; The May Procession is led by Year 2; and the whole school takes part in a Benediction and Adoration service to recognise the Feast of Corpus Christi. KS1 lead a Nativity and KS2 lead a Christmas Carol concert.

All KS2 classes prepare, participate and celebrate the Eucharist as a class in their classroom; sharing and growing in their faith. Reconciliation services take place during Advent and Lent and all children who are eligible take part in Confession at these times.

Weekly arrangements for daily acts of worship:

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| • Monday | Musical Celebration of the Word
(Led by Music Lead) |
| • Tuesday | Class child-led liturgy
(Led by the children) |
| • Wednesday | Meditation
(Led by all teachers) |
| • Thursday | Celebration of the Word
(Led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher) |
| • Friday | Celebration Assembly
(Led by all teachers) |

These liturgies can be subject to change:

- Celebration of Feast Days
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Holy Week
- Advent or Lenten Collective Worship

We take the themes for our liturgies from the traditions of the Catholic faith using: the TenTen programme; the themes and topics in the RE curriculum; and our PSHE scheme of work. We reflect the liturgical season, festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas, such as RE, English, Art, Science, and Music.

Prayers

The prayers expected by each class are outlined in Appendix 1 and are contained in the RE Staff handbook. All classes say a morning and end of day prayer, Grace before and after meals and a prayer at the end of break and lunchtime.

Music

A wide range of religious music is chosen to expose pupils to different genres and enhance their experience of prayer and liturgy. This includes both traditional hymns and more contemporary praise and worship songs. An outline of this can be found on the Prayer and Liturgy Annual Plan of Provision.

Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team consists of 2 children from Years 2-4 and at least 20 children from both Year 5 and 6.

The Chaplaincy Team is designed to give children ownership and understanding of this central aspect of their faith. They look at what they can do to help the local and wider community. The responsibility of the chaplaincy team is to develop the prayer life of the school.

Prayer tables and the physical environment

Each classroom has a prayer table which is changed to reflect the present liturgical season. Each class has access to resources to create their prayer focus. These are changed by the children in KS2. All classrooms have their class prayers displayed in the room and a display board for work in Religious Education. The prayer table will also feature a range of resources, such as a crucifix, a candle, a Bible, and an interactive opportunity, for example a prayer box.

The entrance area, corridor and hall each have a prayer table which are the responsibility of the Chaplains. The prayer table in the entrance area will be updated each liturgical season. All prayer tables will be monitored and evaluated by the Chaplains.

In the corridors and other rooms there are Religious pictures, crosses, statues and religious artefacts. Our Lady is particularly represented as she is our namesake.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is evidenced through:

- Displays
- Prayer and Liturgy scrap books
- ClassDojo
- Collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- PowerPoint presentations

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 are 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. An annual staff questionnaire will be shared and analysed to inform training and formation. Through discussion between the Prayer and Liturgy Lead and staff, 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 take place regularly, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development are identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced in the RE action plan as appropriate.

8. Review

The policy will be reviewed every 2 years as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.