



St Joseph's Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Shining in the Light of Christ to be the Best that we can be

Policy agreed (date):	
Policy published (including on website) (date):	
Next review (date):	September 2027

Mission

Our St Joseph's Vision
Shining in the Light of Christ
to be the best that we can be

Our School Family Mission Statement

The mission of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is to provide a Catholic education that enables our St Joseph's family to shine in the light of Christ as beacons of Hope for the World.

let us Shine

Spiritual Jesus is our Teacher and we follow in his Holy footsteps. We forgive each other and share His love with others and we are responsible for looking after his Creations

Harmony In our St Joseph's Family, We live in Harmony because we are sympathetic, compassionate, gentle peacemakers

Inquisitive In our learning, we are keen to discover new things and we are always curious about our Wonderful World

Never give up We persevere when learning is tricky and encourage and support others in school and around the world so that all of God's people can be the best that they can be

Enjoy We embrace learning joyfully and enjoy taking part in the rich, exciting curriculum with Happy hearts

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))

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

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspects of school life. All pupils are educated in belief as and devotional practices of the Catholic Church. Participation in daily act of worship remains at the helm of every morning, before lunch, with RE lessons and at the end of each day.

*Every class will have a focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. Prayer leaders must organise and look after these prayer areas, therefore creating a space that is valued and used by pupils.

*Daily prayers are said at the start and at the end of the day, other prayers such as grace before meals are said.

*Mondays: a whole school Gospel 'Celebration of the Word', led by the headteacher, takes place. These are evaluated by the children on a termly basis, whose feedback is considered for future gatherings.

*There are weekly Key Stage 'Celebration of the Word' led by class teachers

*Friday: There is a whole-school SHINE 'Celebration of the Word' led by the Headteacher

*On other days of the week, there are classroom based 'celebration of the Word'

*Chapel Reflections are planned on a weekly basis. KS2 the children plan independently and KS1 children are supported by an adult (See Appendix 1). Chapel times are timetabled and classes try and go to church to hold their reflection every other week. (Dependent on masses e.g funerals).

- *Once a term each class will take part in morning Mass in church.
- *During the month of October and May, the Chaplaincy team hold a lunchtime Rosary Club for pupils and staff
- *Whole-School Masses are celebrated throughout the year: Start of the School Year, Harvest, All Saints Day, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, May Mary Mass, Leavers' Mass and there are Key Stage Masses throughout the year
- *Pupils have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during our Lenten Penitential Service

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