



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

‘Loving, Learning and Reaching out to All’

Chair of Governors	Mrs A Houghton
Headteacher	Mrs A Sutton
Date adopted: September 2025	Review Date: September 2027



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.)

1. 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)).

Our Lady’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.

2. Responsibility

(a) **Governance** - The governors, as guardians of our 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). In Holy Family, those jointly responsible are: Mrs Sutton, as RE Lead and Mrs McCoy, Deputy Head and member of the RE Team
- 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 Archdiocesan Education Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep up-to-date with best practice.

3. Aims

Prayer and Liturgy aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by:-

- Providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- Developing a community spirit.
- Promoting and encouraging a common ethos and sharing values and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- Providing opportunities to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues.
- Building a firm foundation of Liturgy.
- Providing an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Ensuring pupils have the opportunity to explore their own beliefs.
- Respecting and celebrating life.
- Enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging.



- Promoting each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

4. Objectives

To fulfil these aims, Our Lady's will provide opportunities for our community to:-

- celebrate life and learning
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff pray together
- take part in worship through prayer, drama and song
- follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- explore the child's own experiences by helping each individual to reflect and respond with regard to all acts of prayer and liturgy.

5. Prayer and Liturgy:

❖ Who

At Our Lady's, the Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Prayer and Liturgy after consulting with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure provision of Prayer and Liturgy on a daily basis for each child. Teachers enable Prayer and Liturgy to take place each day.

❖ Where

Classroom: this room is where our children spend most of their time; therefore, it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and members of staff. Here, a focus for worship is provided based on a Come and See topic, RED Branch, time of the year or relevant theme. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in the planning process.

Hall: here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers, governors, parishioners and family friends, come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

Prayer Garden: our dedicated prayer garden acts as a focal point for prayer and reflection.

Prayer Wall: here we can dedicate a prayer to people in need or a loved one. It is a quiet space where prayer can be offered up for all.

Churches: both our parishes are beautiful places to share the message of the Gospel. They are places we can come together to share and worship with our parish community.



❖ When

We assemble in a variety of groups including class groups, key stage groups or whole school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Prayer and Liturgy led by Mrs Sutton-Headteacher	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led	Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher Rota	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led	Class based Prayer and Liturgy- Teacher led

Themes for Prayer and Liturgies are based upon the Come and See themes, RED Branch themes, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects and global, national or local events. Teachers may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

Acts of Prayer and Liturgy will always include an appropriate reference from scripture, read with deference from the Good News Bible. Celebration of the Word which includes the Gospel reading also includes a sung Gospel Acclamation.

Resources to enhance Prayer and Liturgy are kept in the RE area in school. This is also a quiet reflective area.

6. Parental and Community Involvement

Classes prepare and lead a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See theme or RED Branch to which all parents/carers family friends and governors are invited. On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebration assembly.

Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are always invited to these whole school acts of Prayer and Liturgy e.g. Advent, Lent, end of year etc. Each term, Parents, Carers and families are invited to join the class prayer and liturgy session which is planned and led by the pupils.

On the first Thursday of every month, Father Dominic comes into school to lead a School Mass, to which parents/ carers, parishioners and governors are invited to.

7. Inclusion

Inclusion in Prayer and Liturgy is central to our ethos and our mission. The whole-school approach to Prayer and Liturgy is fully inclusive, ensuring that every child is able to participate meaningfully and



with joy. When planning Prayer and Liturgy, we carefully consider the individual needs, abilities, and backgrounds of all pupils, adapting and creating opportunities for everyone to contribute, reflect, and grow in faith. Through inclusive and engaging experiences of prayer, worship, and celebration, we help each child to feel valued, respected, and connected to our school and parish community

8. Continuity and Progression

The content and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy allows the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding. Prayer and Liturgy is planned for and mapped out for the year. Much of the worship is governed by the themes in the RED and Come and See programme. This ensures progression and continuity, as both these aspects of a child's learning are an integral part of both programmes. The themes covered encompass a structured, well-planned programme.

9. Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting

Children are shown the skills and given opportunities to reflect and evaluate their acts of Worship. Children are encouraged to articulate the ways in which these experiences have shaped how they think about themselves and the world and how this has inspired them into action. Annual reports to parents and carers contain information about the child's response to Prayer and Liturgy.

Prayer and liturgy is shared on Reach More Parents and twitter to inform parents of weekly themes, liturgical celebrations as well as work done through other organisations such as CAFOD, Mary's Meals and Mission Together. The school website is kept up to date with termly overviews of Prayer and Liturgy and updates.

10. Prayer

All teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child's school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Prayer and Liturgy.

Children gather together for prayer at the start and end of the day and also before and after mealtimes. We also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises. Our prayer stations around the school encourage and facilitate this for our children.

School prayer booklets are provided for each key stage and are shared with parents and are available on the school website.

Children are encouraged to have an active role in planning the Prayer and Liturgy. They can share their own prayers with peers and create the atmosphere for successful worship through the selection of readings and music. Further details are given on the Prayer and Liturgy Annual Provision for Prayer Document.



11. Promoting British Values:

Our Prayer and Liturgy sessions uphold the dignity and worth of every individual, reflecting both our Gospel values and the British values of respect, tolerance, and individual liberty. Guided by our mission statement — We are *Loving, Learning, Reaching Out to All*, with Jesus in our hearts and minds— we celebrate diversity and ensure that every member of our community is valued equally, regardless of their protected characteristics, which include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Through prayer, worship, and collective reflection, we express love for God and one another, nurture a joy for learning, and reach out in friendship and compassion to all. In doing so, we create an inclusive community rooted in love, justice, and mutual respect, principles that embody both our Catholic faith and the shared values of life in modern Britain.

In Conclusion:

Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady's provides opportunities for pupils and staff and wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our faith journey. We firmly believe that worship is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Prayer and Liturgy should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.

