



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Together, we learn, love and grow with Jesus.

Written by
R Jackson Autumn 2026
To be reviewed: Autumn 2027

Signed by the Chair of Governors J.Hunt

Signed by the Headteacher D.Wilson



Together, we learn, love and grow 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; 70 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)).

Our 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 is not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of Prayer and liturgy is 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 is 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 – Mrs Jackson)
- 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 is central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore is in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader, Mrs Jackson, 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 is 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.

1. Overview of Prayer and liturgy provision

Where should Prayer and liturgy take place?

If the space is available, then Prayer and liturgy can be carried out at any point in the daytime and can take place in the following spaces:

- ❖ In the classrooms
- ❖ In our school hall
- ❖ In our Spiritual Garden
- ❖ In church
- ❖ In the open if appropriate
- ❖ School trips



When should Prayer and liturgy take place?

Prayer and liturgy need not occur at the beginning of the day but rather at the time that is most appropriate for us as a school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

Reception and Key Stage One hold a Celebration of the Word together every Monday and Key Stage Two celebrate together every Tuesday. Preschool and Reception also celebrate together every Friday. With exception to these three days, a Celebration of the Word takes place at least twice a week within each class. Teachers are also encouraged to celebrate with other classes as well as inviting parents to join also.

Parents are invited into school each term for a Celebration of the Word.

Sacramental Preparation

We believe that it is essential that Home, School and Parish work very closely together in preparing each pupil for the Sacraments. St. Jude's Catholic Primary School fully supports the parish in their preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. School is involved in the initial part of the process where the preparation and the commitment

required is outlined. A prayer session from the Sacramental programme also takes place in school. Input from the parish priest, school and catechists is given. Members of the SLT then attend each session of the Sacramental Programme to support the children and their families.

We follow the 'With You Always' Programme. This is a resource for parents and their children who are in Year 4, however, all children from Year 5 and Year 6 are also invited to participate. The resource encourages parents/carers and children to meet together with parish catechists, supported by the school, to learn about the sacraments using the family catechesis method. Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith as is made clear when the child is baptised. The goal of family catechesis is the evangelisation of the whole family with particular emphasis on the support of parents to pass on the faith to their children. Family catechesis helps support the Home-Parish-School partnership.

Prayer

At the beginning and end of each day, and before lunchtime, prayers are said within the classroom. Prayers are also said during our Achievers Assembly to thank God for our talents and our birthdays. Our parish priest also visits KS2 classes to say the Rosary on a weekly basis. Traditional prayers as well as school prayers are shared. Opportunities for silent contemplation are provided before we pray.

We endeavour to include families in prayer as much as possible through the use of our Prayer Bears and Prayer Bags that are sent home each week as well as the Posada which is sent home in every class throughout the season of Advent. We also invite parents into class once a week for 'Share a Prayer'.

Mass

Throughout the year pupils participate in mass at Church and in school:

- ❖ Harvest Mass – October
- ❖ All Saints and All Souls Day - November
- ❖ Christmas Mass – December
- ❖ Ash Wednesday - Spring
- ❖ Easter Mass – Spring
- ❖ Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul - June
- ❖ Leavers Mass – July

Classes also visit St. Jude's church throughout the year for weekday mass with the parish.



2. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy is 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 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 are funded separately under the staff training budget to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Review

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

Appendix 1

Common prayers

This list is introduced in section 7.10 ('Common prayers').

Age phase 3-7 (EYS) 5-7 (KS1) 7-9 (Lower KS2) 9-11 (Upper KS2)

We base our daily prayers on the following suggested list:

Prayers

- The Sign of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory be
- Grace before meals
- Grace after meals
- The Apostles' Creed
- An Act of Contrition
- Angel of God
- Come, Holy Spirit
- The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester
- Morning Offering
- The Rosary
- The Magnificat
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- The Benedictus
- The Angelus
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Memorare
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you
- Eternal Rest

Our school prayer



Home time Prayer



Thank you God for all that I
have enjoyed doing at
school today.

Thank you for helping us to
learn and work hard.

Thank you to everyone who
has worked hard to make
this day a good one for me.

I am sorry if I didn't try my
best please help me to do
better tomorrow.

St. Jude Pray for us.

Amen