

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



“Our school is a place where we all come together as one community to learn, have fun and make lasting friendships all under God’s love and care”

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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; 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)). 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.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The governing body

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.
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2.2 Head teacher

The head teacher, 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.

2.3 Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator (REC)

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.

3. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Worship and Prayer are an integral and important part of our school day. A variety of styles are introduced such as formal prayer, personal prayer, quiet times, reflection, hymns, as well as through Masses, Services

and Assemblies and Retreats. The children are taught all the traditional prayers of the Church through their years at school. We have a designated Prayer Garden and outside Worship Area, as well as worship areas around the school and designated Prayer focus areas in all classrooms.

Staff worship takes place every Tuesday morning. All staff meetings, Parent and Governor meetings in school begin with prayer. Pupils will attend one form of worship a day, either as a whole school, Key stage or class. We pray four times a day (Morning prayer, Grace before and after Lunch and End of the Day prayer).

We gather as a whole school every Monday morning for a Gospel assembly led by the head teacher/deputy head teacher and our Little Larries chaplaincy team.

Mass is celebrated as a whole school in Church each term and on Holy Days of Obligation. Each class, Years 1-6 will join a Parish Mass once a term. Mass is also celebrated on special occasions such as our Harvest Mass and Gift Mass. Other special services during the year include a Passion play during Holy Week, a May Service in honour of Mary, Eucharistic Adoration and Penitential Services and Christmas Nativity.

The structure of Worship used throughout the school uses some of the following ideas: a Prayer focus table, the use of atmosphere (music, lighting, candles, statues or other icons, natural objects or stimuli, paintings and artwork), reflections and discussions (questioning, sharing personal experiences etc.), prayer song, silence.

Pupils take part in child- led worship once a week, using the Prayer Toolkit. The worship is planned using the format of Gather, Word, Response to the word, Mission. The teacher or children will then gather the children's responses. Celebration of the Word is recorded in a class book.

Parents and Carers are invited to share in school worship whenever possible.

We have a pupil chaplaincy group called the Little Larries, who lead and support on school worship and RE initiatives.

4. Resources

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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

Religious Education