

Bishop Challoner Catholic College



Next Review

February 2026

Review Period

Annual

Last reviewed

February 2025

Current Status

Approved

Staff Owner

J Cunnane

Government/DfE Requirement

Good practice

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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'Our Catholic School is a living and caring community of Faith, an extension of the home, and an integral part of the Catholic community'

IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH
IN BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD BY DEVELOPING OUR FULL POTENTIAL
AND IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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)). 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.

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) Principal

The Principal, 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 Principal 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

Catholic worship here, as in all Catholic schools, is concerned with ensuring that a child's or young person's journey into adulthood should also be a journey of faith, a journey which recognises that true justice, peace and human freedom require, first and foremost, respect for the dignity of human life.

Our aim is to attend to the spiritual needs of children and young people as a constant priority. The value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Worship in Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School is more than a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is fully underpinned by the Mission Statement. Collective worship at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School should be inclusive; educational; spiritual; moral; social and cultural.

Collective worship should take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community of the Church.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- Those from other Christian traditions or none.
- Those from other faith traditions.

There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This may take place at any time during the school day and could be a single act of worship for the whole school, or separate acts of worship in school groups.

To fulfil this requirement, collective worship may take the form of:

- Prayers during form time.
- Prayers during lesson.
- Form group act of worship.
- Year group act of worship.
- Whole school act of worship.
- Staff prayer.
- Retreats.
- Assemblies.

We believe that collective worship in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationship with God. It will offer an opportunity to:

- Contemplate the mystery of God.
- Unite our worshipping Eucharistic Community in solidarity.
- Develop skills of: reverence; contemplation; reflection; interpretation; empathy; meditation and listening, to enable our relationship with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us to:

- Grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding.
- Grow in understanding of our living faith traditions.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Jesus Christ.
- Examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys.
- Develop skills of prayer.

In Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, the usual response to the requirement is as follows:

- Each fortnight every year group attends one assembly on a designated day.
- In tutor time, morning and evening, every tutor is required to enable prayer with their tutor group, for which prayers are provided and some guidance given to tutors about creating a place for prayer (sacred space) and leading prayer with their form. This constitutes an act of worship (which is expected to happen) and it is monitored in school in a variety of ways.
- In addition, on special occasions, extra assemblies may occur to respond to special school or global events.
- As well, during lessons, departments are encouraged to say the school prayer or their departmental prayer.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for collective worship.
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with the agreed policy.
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc.
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact.
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer.
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community.
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer.
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship.

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.

Appendix A – Calendar for Collective Worship

AUTUMN TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST TERESA 5TH SEPTEMBER • KS3 29TH SEPTEMBER ST CHADS CHAPLAINCY COMMISSIONING MASS • YEAR 7 RETREAT DAY 12 OCTOBER • 18TH OCTOBER ST LUKE • YEAR 8 MASS 26TH OCTOBER • NOVEMBER CHAPLAINCY TRAINING Y7/Y8 • 22ND NOVEMBER ST CECELIA • POPPY SALES NOVEMBER • ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES • SIXTH FORM MASS • PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS CHAPLAINCY ROOM SESSIONS • THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER
SPRING TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JANUARY MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS • EPIPHANY BLESSING 8TH JANUARY • 20TH JANUARY ST SEBASTIAN • 31ST JANUARY ST JOHN BOSCO • YR 8 VOCATIONS DAY • FEBRUARY MOST HOLY FAMILY • LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES • STATIONS OF THE CROSS- CHAPLAINCY ROOM SESSION • MARCH ST JOSEPH • EASTER MASS 22ND MARCH
SUMMER TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APRIL MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST • HOLY MASS CHAPLAINCY ROOM SESSIONS • 16TH APRIL ST BERNADETTE • THURSDAY 25TH APRIL ARCHBISHOP BERNARD BLESSING SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY • MAY MONTH OF MARY • MONTH OF MARY CHAPLAINCY ROOM SESSIONS • 9TH MAY ASCENSION • 30TH MAY CORPUS CHRISTI • JUNE MONTH OF SACRED HEART • 29TH JUNE ST PETER ST PAUL • YR 9 RETREAT DAY • JULY MONTH PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS • YR11 LEAVERS MASS • YR13 LEAVERS MASS • END OF TERM MASS

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE PRAYER AND LITRUGY PROVISION

WEEKLY EVENTS

- PARISH MASS WITH ST DUNSTANS – CLASS GROUPS ATTEND ON ROTA BASIS
- TOLKIEN AWARD
- PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH
- STAFF PRAYER GROUP – FRIDAY
- ROSARY GROUP – WEDNESDAY