Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Agreed by Governing Board November 2025
Policy will be reviewed by November 2027

Mission Statement

We know that we are precious in God's eyes.
By following in Jesus' footsteps, we learn and grow together to build a better world.

School motto

We follow in Jesus' footsteps

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 25th November 2025 and will be reviewed in November 2026.

Signed by the Chair of Governors

Signed by the Headteacher

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)).

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

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy within a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is an essential part of our distinctive ethos; a way of giving glory to God and deepening our relationship with Him through prayer, reflection, praise and rejoicing. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We will:

Give glory and honour to God
Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship
Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
In order to do this, celebrations will:

Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
Be short and appropriately paced
Be simple but will include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and a variety of settings.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates eg. Cafod Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and Parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

Day	Content	Venue	Age group	Led by
Monday	Following scripture, key liturgical dates and feast days	Hall	Whole school	Mrs Morrison/Mr Heron
Tuesday	Teacher Led Class Worships Based on Feast Days, Parables and Miracles	Classrooms	All classes	Teacher/pupils
Wednesday	Wednesday Word	Hall	Whole school	Teachers
Thursday	Child Led Class Worships Hymns based on time of year/feast day	Classrooms Hall	All classes Whole school	Teachers/pupils Mrs McDonnell and Mr Heron
Friday	Celebration assembly including CST and prayer.	Hall	Whole school and parents	Mrs Morrison

Planning

Gather – We think about how we come together, the environment and a focal point.
Listen – We hear a reading from the scriptures, have time to reflect and say a prayer to match the theme.
Respond – We think about how we will respond to the word of God.
Send– We give the children something to take away from their liturgical experience that they can act on in their lives and/or share with others.

There is an expectation that pupils in certain Year groups will learn the following prayers:

Age Phase			
EYFS	**5 – 7 (KS1)**	**7 – 9 (Lower KS2)**	**9 – 11 (Upper KS2)**
• The Sign of the Cross • Morning Prayer • Grace before meals • Afternoon prayer	• The Sign of the Cross • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory Be	• The Apostles' Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester • Hail Holy Queen	• The Nicene Creed • Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love
The School Mission Statement			

Eucharist

As a school we are very fortunate to be located so close to our church, enabling us to attend Mass every Thursday. We do this on a timetable of two classes each week. Children attend Mass at least once every half term, on feast days and at key times during the year.
Children in year 4 are given the opportunity to participate in the preparation and the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Expectations for Prayer and Liturgy
Jesus Christ is central to all aspects of school life and all pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.
Every class will have a prayer table – this will be treated with reverence, be liturgically correct and follow the Church's year.
Daily prayers said at the start and end of each day, as well as praying grace before lunch.
Our whole school Gospel assemblies on Mondays and Wednesdays will focus on Sunday's Gospel. In addition to this hymn practice is celebrated each week to enrich Prayer and Liturgy.

Class liturgies will have a specific theme according to the Liturgical season or given theme.

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the 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. Each classroom has a focus table and there are other dedicated areas of focus, in the Dining Hall, the school corridor, the playground and in the Reception area of the school. Each focus area reflects the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs are 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.