



# Mount Carmel

## R.C. HIGH SCHOOL



### **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

**(This policy is based on the Salford Diocese Model Policy and Prayer and Liturgy Directory 'To Love You More Dearly' (2023) from the Bishops of England and Wales)**

**Approved by CLOTS governors committee on 15<sup>th</sup> May and FGB on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

**Next Update Due: Summer Term 2025 by XBS / BDS**

*A Family of Faith & Learning*

## **Mount Carmel RC High School, Accrington.**

### **1. Context of the Policy**

“The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers are an integral part of learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God, and develop a mature spiritual life.” — Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society

- a) Prayer and liturgy are central to the life and mission of our Catholic school. They provide the foundation for spiritual growth, community identity, and the expression of our faith in Christ. Through a variety of prayerful experiences, personal, communal, formal, and spontaneous, we seek to nurture the spiritual development of all pupils and staff.
- b) Our approach is rooted in the Catholic tradition, the liturgical calendar of the church and guided by Church teaching and more recently as included in ‘Love You More Dearly’ published by the Bishops of England and Wales (2023).
- c) Our school liturgical calendar is reviewed and updated annually, follows the seasons of the Church year and marks Holy Days of Obligation, key feast days, CAFOD foci, charity events, eco activities, collaborative liturgies with local primary schools. These celebrations root us in Catholic tradition whilst connecting us to ‘our common home’, the wider Church and local community.
- d) We also recognise the unique and multi-faith nature of our school, including the presence of pupils from the Islamic tradition and other faiths. Inspired by the legacy of the late Pope Francis, particularly his emphasis on dialogue and fraternity, we promote interfaith respect, shared values, and opportunities for encounter, ensuring that all feel included, respected, and spiritually supported.
- e) Chaplaincy Schedule for 2025 - [Hyperlink](#).

### **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). This must be 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).

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from prayer and liturgy up to the age of 16 (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils may choose to withdraw themselves (s.71(1B)).

Prayer and liturgy are not part of curriculum time for Religious Education but are essential elements of the Catholic ethos of the school.

- a) We ensure daily form time prayer and weekly assemblies are an act of daily worship, prayer and reflection for all pupils. We regularly celebrate the Eucharist in school and local parishes.
- b) The liturgical seasons of the church are marked and celebrated with year group celebrations of the word. Overall, our provision fosters a living faith that reflects the school mission statement and Catholic Social Teaching.
- c) At the same time, we are committed to recognising and respecting the faith backgrounds of all pupils, fostering an ethos of welcome, interfaith dialogue, and shared values.
- d) At times of prayer and worship pupils of other faiths or no faith are expected to join in if possible but if not, be respectful and show reverence by being still and silent.
- e) Prayer and worship are not confined to designated moments; they permeate the life of the school, shaping its ethos and guiding its mission in service of the Gospel.
- f) Prayer and Worship Advice and Guidance for form tutors and school leaders 2025 - [Hyperlink](#)

### **3. Responsibilities**

#### **(a) Governance**

The Governing Body ensures that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school.
- Mr Benjamin Davies is the designated Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator.
- The policy is regularly reviewed and shared with stakeholders.
- Adequate resources and budget are allocated for prayer and liturgy.

#### **(b) Headteacher**

Mr. Xavier Bowers, as the spiritual leader of the school, ensures that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to school life.
- He works closely with Benjamin Davies the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator.
- Staff responsible for prayer and liturgy receive appropriate training and formation.
- Adequate resources are provided for prayer and liturgy.

#### **(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator (Mr. Benjamin Davies)**

### **Main Responsibilities:**

- There is a structured Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy, aligning with the liturgical calendar of the Catholic church as per the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Daily planned prayer is appropriate for all pupils.
- Pupils take an active role in planning and leading prayer and liturgy.
- Staff receive induction and training for leading prayer and liturgy.
- Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and are reported regularly, as appropriate, to the Headteacher and termly to Catholic Life of the School (CLOTS) governors' committee.
- Where possible, and as appropriate, collaboration occurs with Catholic partner primary schools, local clergy, parishes, and diocesan advisors.

### **d) Chaplaincy Coordinator (Mrs Olivia Clayton)**

#### **Main Responsibilities:**

- To ensure pupils in Y7 – Y11 effectively plan and lead prayer and worship as per the school chaplaincy schedule.
- Ensure pupil chaplains and charity reps Y7 – Y11 have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities.
- Clear success criteria to be put in place in line with CSI framework to at least meet the good criteria.
- Pupil chaplains and charity reps meet regularly and receive effective personal formation, training, advice and support.

#### **Work with and alongside Ben Davies (Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator) on the following:**

1. To ensure that form time prayer and worship is monitored effectively.
2. To prepare pupils for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
3. Attend and fully engage with the Faith and Community Meeting, which meets half-termly to plan, prepare and monitor a full and enriching chaplaincy and charity programme.
4. The delivery of Celebration of the Word for pupils and staff that recognise and celebrate the liturgical life of the church, including first Friday Masses.
5. Be responsible for the school chapel and ensure it is appropriately used and cared for by all who use it.
6. Lead an annual educational visit to a retreat centre

## **4. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision**

We offer a rich and varied programme of prayer and liturgical worship, including:

- **Daily prayer** in form groups to begin the school day in reflection and unity
- **Weekly assemblies** centred on Scripture, the liturgical season, and Catholic Social Teaching
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**, including monthly **First Friday Mass** and other liturgical occasions
- **Special Celebrations of the Word**, marking the seasons of the Church year (Advent, Lent, Easter, etc.)
- **Opportunities for catechesis** and sacramental preparation
- **Staff prayer and worship**, encouraging a shared spiritual life across the school community
- An annually updated **liturgical calendar** that includes:
  - Key events in the liturgical year and Holy Days of Obligation
  - **CAFOD** and charity campaigns
  - **Eco-awareness initiatives** linked to Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum
  - Joint liturgies and chaplaincy collaboration with **local Catholic primary schools**

While rooted in Catholic faith and practice, we also recognise and value the religious diversity of our community. Inspired by the legacy of the late Pope Francis, especially his commitment to dialogue and fraternity, we foster respectful interfaith relationships and ensure all pupils feel spiritually welcomed and included.

Prayer and liturgy permeate school life and shape our mission to form young people who are spiritually aware, morally responsible, and open to the love of God.

## 5. Resourcing

The school's Catholic identity is reflected in:

- Annual budget allocation for prayer and liturgy.
- Chaplaincy provision and dedicated spaces for worship.
- Religious imagery and artefacts displayed throughout the school.
- Funding for staff formation and training in liturgy.

## 6. Training and Formation

All staff receive appropriate induction and ongoing professional development to support their role in leading prayer and liturgy. Training needs are identified and addressed, with at least one dedicated training session per year.

- a) The Catholic Life of the School is a significant part of the school recruitment and selection process.
- b) The school staff induction programme for new staff ensures all staff have a good understanding of how they are expected to support the Catholic ethos of the school.

- c) At the start of each school year updated advice, guidance and training is provided annually for all staff in particular form tutors, pastoral leaders and SLT who ensure meaningful daily prayer and worship takes place in form time and weekly assemblies.
- d) Bespoke one to one support for staff is also provided as required during the academic year. We have introduced the 'I Do, We Do, You Do' approach across school.

## **7. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The effectiveness of prayer and liturgy is evaluated regularly, involving pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Feedback is used to enhance the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

- a) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the chaplaincy provision including prayer and worship is included in the annual pupil, parent and staff surveys.
- b) XBS and BDS regularly visit prayer and worship in form time and assemblies. We have developed a standardised template in line with the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework (CSI framework), to record visits and provide regular feedback to staff. A summary of information is shared with the governors' Catholic Life of the School committee.
- c) The Faith and Community Committee meet half termly to plan, monitor and review the delivery of the annual chaplaincy schedule. The school head boy and head girl attend these meetings along with staff who are keen to be involved in chaplaincy activities and events.

## **8. Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's regular policy review cycle.

End of Report / Headteacher / X Bowers / Curriculum Leader RE / Ben Davies / July 2025