

Sacred Heart



Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been adapted from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory 'To Love You More Dearly'.

Context

'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.)

Statement of Requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

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)

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.

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

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, our classes take part in a daily act of worship. Our children attend whole school worship assemblies on Monday and Wednesday. As well as this, each class take part in class-based worship on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In EYFS and KS1, the class teachers lead all worship sessions. In KS2, the class teachers lead twice a week with the children leading one session a week in small groups. We use TenTen resources to ensure our children are able to access high quality Prayer and Liturgy sessions, which all include time for personal reflection, scripture and appropriate music.

We celebrate Mass regularly where at least once a term each class will attend the Friday morning Mass at Sacred Heart Church. We also attend Mass as a school or with several classes, at key times of the year such as, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Leavers Mass etc. We are very proud to have our own display area in church where we are able to share the children's work with the parish. We work with the Church and our families to encourage and support opportunities for the receiving of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Please also see our 'Annual Plan of Provision' document, which maps out the whole school provision for RE Curriculum, Prayer and Liturgy. Alongside this we also have a 'Prayer Progression' document which sets out expectations for what prayers children should know by each year group.

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to our 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 chaplaincy provision. The Catholic character of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces in each classroom 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.

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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly and at least annually. 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.

Date for review: September 2026