



'Loving God in all we do'

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ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY 2026

"It is important to ensure that our prayer reflects the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging". (R.E. The Primary Years)

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, all children will be introduced to the worship of God and the Liturgy of His Word. We are fully committed to providing opportunities for all children to know, love and serve God, in such a way that will enrich their own lives and help them to understand their Catholic faith traditions, in an ever-changing world and within the multicultural society they live in.

We believe that prayer and worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

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.)

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).

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)). 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, Mr. Chris Knowles, who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school as 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 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

In collaboration with Miss. Dewhurst,

Mr. Knowles 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
- 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.

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, all children will be introduced to the worship of God and the Liturgy of His Word on an increasing scale as the children progress through the school.

We will build upon the children's previous experiences with the Catholic Spirit of the School Mission Statement as the focal point. The staff and governors recognise that each child will have a different background with regards to the worship of God.

The aims and purpose of prayer and liturgy at St. Anne's:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God in an atmosphere of joy
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to develop the capacity to listen, to forgive and to ask forgiveness;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to express gratitude;
- to act together as a Christian community;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values such as respect for others, truth, forgiveness and justice;

- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to teach children how to worship and how to prepare and lead worship.

What is Prayer and Liturgy?

We understand prayer as a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show honour, glory and reverence to God. Prayer and liturgy may involve all members of the school, children from a Key Stage, or a class coming together and participating in an act of worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our acts of worship on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to all religious and educational needs of those who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

While acts of prayer and liturgy in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the wider community. Worship in a Catholic School is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of a school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Why do we celebrate Prayer and Liturgy?

Prayer and liturgy, provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God and:

- To encourage a common mission, ethos and shared values
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To reflect on personal belief
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff

Throughout the ages of a primary school prayer builds upon the natural spontaneous expression of joy, wonder, awe, concern, thanks, sorrow, evoked through children's growing awareness of themselves, others and their world.

Prayer is the natural way of expressing the above through words, song, gesture, movement, dance, art, writing, silence. This is developed through having a "focus of reverence" - a special experience of awareness, learning to be still and quiet. Informal words of prayer arise out of the above, in the children's own simple everyday language.

Gradually, formal prayers are introduced either by hearing them said and joining in or learning by heart. Prayer and Liturgy should offer:

- A focus point using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Time for reflection
- Communal prayers
- Private, silent prayer
- Scriptural reference
- Music/dance/mime/singing

Children participate in all areas of prayer and liturgy, participating fully in acts of worship. They are also involved in preparation and delivery, regularly leading class prayer and liturgy sessions

Who participates in Prayer and Liturgy?

With the age-appropriate supervision and guidance, children must have the opportunity to take part in daily liturgy and to take an increasing role in planning, preparing and leading an act of worship. Teachers must plan and enable this to take place each day. Parents are invited to participate in prayer and liturgy at school masses and stay and pray with their child's class (but also have the legal right to withdraw their child).

At St. Anne's, daily acts of prayer and liturgy are organised as follows to provide a range of experiences throughout the week for all children:

Monday: Whole School Celebration of the Word led by Miss Dewhurst and KS2 Hymn practice

Tuesday: Class Celebration of the Word

Wednesday: Class Celebration of the Word and KS1 Hymn practice

Thursday: Class Celebration of the Word

Friday: Whole key stage Celebration of the Word.

Themes are taken from the Sunday Gospel as well as other traditions of the Catholic faith. They also reflect the liturgical year. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter liturgies are whole school times of focus in the life of the school community.

Other opportunities throughout the year are taken to celebrate Mass including:

Whole school Welcome Mass, Harvest Mass, Advent Mass, Easter Mass and Year 6 Leavers Mass.

The Annual Plan of Provision details the provision of daily prayer, themes of weekly scripture and whole school services and Masses.

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, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and Catholic Social Teaching Displays 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.

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.

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Policy Ratified: TBC October 2026

Review: September 2027

Appendices: See: Annual Plan for Prayer and Liturgy document