



**St Cecilia's**  
R. C. High School

***Discover • Develop • Rejoice***

# **Prayer & Liturgy Policy**

## **2025-26**

***“Let everything you do be done in love.”***

***1 Corinthians 16:14***

**Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator-I Barden and A Bretherton**

**Prayer and liturgy policy**

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on November 2024 and will be reviewed on November 2025.

Signed by the Chair of Governors

Signed by the Headteacher

# **School Mission Statement**

## **Discover – Develop – Rejoice**

At St. Cecilia's Catholic school we believe that:

\* As individuals, we all come with God-given talents to discover, develop and rejoice. It is our responsibility to make sure we support the growth of our own talents and gifts, along with those of each other.

\* We celebrate God in all we do, say, think and achieve, as we strive to succeed.

\* When things go wrong, Christ's love will help us support each other to start again. We should never give up but should persist in the face of setbacks.

\* We all serve and build our community in Christ by showing respect for ourselves, respect for each other and respect for the world.

*St Cecilia We Celebrate You*  
*Lyrics and music composed by Debbie Jones*

*Verse 1*

*We all have offerings and talents to give  
Let's all discover them, develop them and live  
Inviting friends to share in our journey  
We'll join together, telling our story  
Stories of learning and teaching each other  
We are one family like sisters and brothers  
Hearing and sharing experience of life  
We thank Our Lord, as we lift our voices*

*Chorus*

*In all we do, we sing for you  
We're here to praise, our blessings gifts and faith  
Respect each other, forgive forget  
St Cecilia we celebrate you*

*Verse 2*

*When things go wrong we can always start again  
There is no shame in saying sorry in the end  
Consideration, everyone is treated fairly  
We thank Our Lord as we lift our voices*

*Chorus*

*Instrumental over verse*

*Chorus x2 and repeat last line*

# *School Prayer*

*L*ord, each of us have different talents and abilities

*We* ask you to inspire us to *discover* and  
*develop* the best within us.

*L*ead us to be both humble and generous in using  
our talents.

*H*elp us to *rejoice* in the talents of all within  
our school community.

*Amen.*

## **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) 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 Coordinators***

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
- with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

#### **4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

Our annual plan for provision and prayer is located on our 'Celebration of the Word' webpage. Please see below:

[Celebration of the Word | St Cecilia's RC High School](#)

#### **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.