

# ST KENTIGERN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Date approved</b>      | September 2025                  |
| <b>Review date</b>        | September 2027                  |
| <b>Responsible leader</b> | Christine Murray – Sarah Brooks |

## Mission Statement

*At St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School, our mission is to provide a nurturing, faith-filled environment where children grow in their relationship with God, inspired by the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. We are committed to guiding each child in their spiritual, academic, and personal development, empowering them to live lives of kindness, integrity, and service, as they follow the examples of St. Kentigern and Christ's love for all.*

## Vision Statement

*We envision St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School as a vibrant community where children flourish in faith, hope, and love. Rooted in the teachings of the Gospel and guided by St. Kentigern, we aim to nurture all our children to become compassionate individuals who make a positive impact on the world around them. Our vision is to be a place where every child is valued, and together, we strive to build a future of justice, peace, and love for all.*

## 1. Rationale

Prayer and liturgy are at the heart of the Catholic life of St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School. They provide regular opportunities for the whole school community to encounter God, listen and respond to the Word of God, celebrate the Church's liturgical life, give thanks, seek forgiveness, intercede for others and grow in relationship with Christ.

In keeping with the Catholic tradition and the expectations of the Diocese of Lancaster, Scripture and the Eucharistic life of the Church have a central place in the spiritual formation of pupils. Prayer and liturgy should therefore be more than a routine or event: they should contribute to the lived Catholic identity and mission of the school.

## 2. Aims

Through prayer and liturgy, the school aims to:

- provide meaningful, reverent and age-appropriate opportunities for pupils and adults to pray;
- help pupils encounter and respond to Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ;
- enable pupils to experience the richness of Catholic prayer, worship, symbol, silence, music and tradition;
- celebrate the seasons and feasts of the Church's liturgical year;
- develop pupils' understanding of the Eucharist and support their participation in Mass;
- provide a progressive experience of prayer so that pupils become increasingly confident and independent;
- develop pupil participation and leadership in preparing, leading and evaluating prayer and liturgy;
- make appropriate links between Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and everyday life;
- strengthen the partnership between school, home and parish; and
- ensure that prayer and liturgy are inclusive and respectful of all members of the school community.

### 3. Principles of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy at St Kentigern's will be recognisably Catholic, rooted in Scripture and appropriate to the age, experience and needs of pupils. It will provide opportunities for active participation as well as silence, stillness and personal reflection.

Those preparing prayer and liturgy should give thoughtful consideration to the Word of God, the liturgical season, the purpose of the gathering, the environment and focal point, music, symbol, response and an appropriate invitation to live out what has been heard and celebrated.

Participation will be invitational and inclusive. Pupils and adults of different backgrounds or beliefs are welcomed respectfully. No child should be made to feel excluded, while the Catholic character and purpose of the prayer or liturgy remain clear.

### 4. Pattern of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy are woven into the normal rhythm of school life. Provision may include:

- daily classroom prayer, including prayer at appropriate points in the school day;
- class prayer and liturgy;
- whole-school prayer and liturgy;
- celebrations linked to the liturgical year and significant moments in the life of the school;
- Masses and other liturgical celebrations with the parish priest, where appropriate;
- opportunities for personal prayer, reflection and silence;
- prayer connected to Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the needs of the local and wider world; and
- opportunities for families and parishioners to participate in the prayer life of the school.

### 5. Progression

The school seeks to ensure that pupils' experience of prayer and liturgy is progressive. As pupils mature, they should encounter an increasing range of forms of prayer, develop a deeper understanding of Scripture and liturgical language, and take greater responsibility for preparing and leading prayer and liturgy.

Progression is not understood simply as doing more. It includes growing reverence, understanding, confidence, reflection, discernment and the ability to make connections between faith and life.

### 6. Pupil Participation and Leadership

Pupil participation is an important feature of prayer and liturgy. Children are given age-appropriate opportunities to contribute to planning, proclamation of Scripture, prayer, music, reflection, symbolic action and evaluation. As their confidence develops, pupils are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for leading elements of prayer and liturgy.

Adults model good practice, teach the knowledge and skills pupils need, and gradually reduce support where pupils are ready to exercise greater independence. Pupil voice is used to help leaders understand how pupils experience prayer and liturgy and how provision can be improved.

### 7. Roles and Responsibilities

The headteacher and SLT:

- promote a culture in which prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life and mission of the school;
- ensure agreed expectations are understood and implemented consistently;
- provide appropriate resources, support and professional development;
- monitor the quality and impact of provision and act upon findings.

#### Prayer and Liturgy leader:

- supports staff in planning and delivering high-quality prayer and liturgy;
- helps coordinate the liturgical calendar and significant celebrations;
- supports pupil participation and leadership;
- gathers evidence through observation, learning walks, pupil voice and evaluation;
- shares strengths and areas for development with leaders and governors.

#### Teachers and other staff:

- model respectful and reverent participation;
- provide regular, meaningful opportunities for prayer;
- help pupils understand the purpose and meaning of prayer and liturgy;
- enable pupils to participate and lead in ways appropriate to their age and development.

#### Governors:

- support and challenge leaders in maintaining the Catholic character of prayer and liturgy;
- receive information about the quality and impact of provision;
- participate, where appropriate, in monitoring, visits and celebrations;
- review this policy and ensure that identified priorities are followed up.

#### The Parish Priest:

- supports the sacramental and liturgical life of the school;
- provides pastoral, spiritual and liturgical guidance;
- helps strengthen the relationship between school, parish and families.

## 8. Planning and Preparation

Planning should be proportionate to the nature of the prayer or liturgy. Formal celebrations will require more detailed preparation, while daily classroom prayer may be planned more simply. Planning should nevertheless have a clear purpose and enable those leading to consider the Scripture or theme, prayerful environment, participation, reflection and response.

Resources are selected carefully so that they are faithful to Catholic teaching, suitable for the age of the pupils and supportive of genuine prayer rather than performance.

## 9. The Liturgical Year and Scripture

The Church's liturgical year provides an important framework for the prayer life of the school. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Marian devotion, saints' days and other appropriate feasts and seasons are marked in ways suited to the school community.

Scripture has a privileged place. Pupils are helped not only to hear the Word of God but to reflect upon it, respond in prayer and consider how it calls them to live.

## 10. Inclusion

Prayer and liturgy should enable every child to feel welcomed and valued. Leaders will take account of pupils' ages, additional needs, communication needs and individual circumstances when planning participation. Appropriate adaptations will be made so that all pupils can engage meaningfully.

## **11. Partnership with Home and Parish**

The school values the contribution of parents, carers, families and parishioners to its prayer and liturgical life. Where appropriate, families and parishioners are invited to Masses, liturgies and other celebrations. The school seeks to help pupils recognise the relationship between prayer in school, prayer at home and the worshipping life of the parish.

## **12. Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact**

Leaders monitor the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy through learning walks, observations, pupil voice, discussion with staff and governors, review of planning and ongoing evaluation of prayer and liturgy experiences.

Monitoring is developmental. Findings are used to identify strengths, refine provision, share effective practice, provide support or professional development where needed, and extend opportunities for pupil participation and leadership.

Governors are kept informed through reports, visits and participation in appropriate monitoring activities. The RE governor and parish priest provide support and challenge and contribute to the continuing development of the school's prayer and liturgical life.

Evidence of impact may include pupils' reverence and participation, their ability to articulate the purpose of prayer, increasing confidence in preparing and leading prayer and liturgy, meaningful links between Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and everyday life, and the engagement of families and parishioners.

## **13. Review and Development**

This policy will be reviewed regularly by school leaders and governors and amended in the light of diocesan guidance, evaluation, pupil voice and the changing needs of the school community. Because this document formalises established practice, leaders will use its implementation and subsequent monitoring to ensure that the written expectations accurately reflect and strengthen the lived prayer and liturgical life of the school.