

St Peter's R.C. Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Policy	Prayer and Liturgy Policy
Date	December 2024
Date of review	December 2026
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>Sarah Adeyemi</i>
Signed Headteacher	<i>Clare Scott</i>

Mission Statement

We, the family of St Peter's, united by our faith by God, love, learn and grow together.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy at

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school name and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. We are following the guidance of the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory, 'To love You more dearly' prior to it becoming statutory in September 2025.

'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.' *Christ at the centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005*

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Liturgy. However, given the importance of Liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

Worship in **St Peter's** is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition, our school Mission Statement and Core Values.

Liturgy considers the religious and educational needs of all 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 – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds

The Aims of Liturgy

Liturgy at St Peter's aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All acts of worship will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

Implementation

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;

- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Planning, content and celebration

Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RED, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, British Values

The parish and parents are invited to participate in celebrations such as an end of school year mass, Class Mass, Family Mass and school assemblies.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

We have formal prayers taught to all the children including the Our Father and Hail Mary. ***We are following the guidance in the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory, 'To love You more dearly' section 9.5-Common Prayers.*** The children are encouraged to participate in prayer at specific times of the day and spontaneous prayer within their own class on a daily basis as well as in Liturgy.

As part of Liturgy, children are taught the prayers and responses for mass eg: 'clapping' Gloria, all of which children choose which they would like to sing.

Liturgical Assemblies – Liturgy

Assemblies are important regular occasions when we reinforce the sense of being a community centred on Christ.

Structure of our Liturgy:

1. Gathering - welcome
2. The Word - readings from Scripture
3. Reflection - responding to the Word of God, intercessions
4. Moving on - sending forth

1. Gathering – welcome

When we gather during Liturgy, we believe the atmosphere is important so staff and children arrive silently and listen to music. The music is a mixture of hymns from around the world to prepare pupils to listen to the Word of God. Teachers should see themselves as responsible for the behaviour of their class as they enter a Liturgy. Pupils should enter in an orderly and appropriate way.

2. The Word - readings from Scripture

Liturgy Theme

The starting point for a whole school Liturgy (Friday) should be the Scripture readings from the upcoming Sunday. This will enable all the children, to experience the Christian feast of Sunday.

The other Liturgies in the week will follow themes, for example: British values, our school Gospel Values, Catholic Social Teaching, PSHE, all linking to our beliefs and scripture readings.

3. Reflection - responding to the Word of God

At this point, the response to Scripture can be original and stimulating, for example drama, art (visual focus), mime, songs, quiet reflection, prayer and music. Liturgy offers regular opportunities for community song and gathering together.

Liturgy is the key time when the community prays together. The whole Liturgy should be seen as prayer.

4. Moving on - sending forth

Whatever Liturgy theme is developed, there should be some aspect that enables students and staff to link it to their lives and invite them to respond. This can be quite simple such as asking a question or more elaborate in terms of giving detailed examples.

The timetable of Liturgy is as below:

		Lead by
Monday	Assembly for EYFS/KS1 and then KS2	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Sing and Praise	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Wednesday Word	Pupil Chaplains
Thursday	All Classes Classroom Worship	Teachers or pupils
Friday	EYFS, KS1 and KS2 celebration Assembly Celebration of the Word	Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/ Priest

Definition

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means 'work of the people' and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Liturgy is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Godself, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God." These words of St. John Damascene, now found in the catechism, illustrate why in this Catholic school we begin and end each session with a prayer.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Liturgy is monitored by the headteacher and deputy headteacher.

By monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the CSED.

Resources

The new Prayer and Liturgy Directory, 'To love You more dearly'. 2023

Resources are kept in classes and in the RE Cupboard.

All KS2 classes have new Good News Bibles.

Music resources kept on shared area for staff to use in Liturgy

The learning environment

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment. Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See/RED topics.

Policy Monitoring and Review

It is the overall responsibility of governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality Liturgy are being delivered.

This policy is monitored by the R.E. co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school on a termly basis. This will form part of the headteacher's report to governors.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for Liturgy;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether Liturgy is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on Liturgy and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in Liturgy.
- Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process.

Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and governors with recommendations for future action.

The Role of the RE Lead:

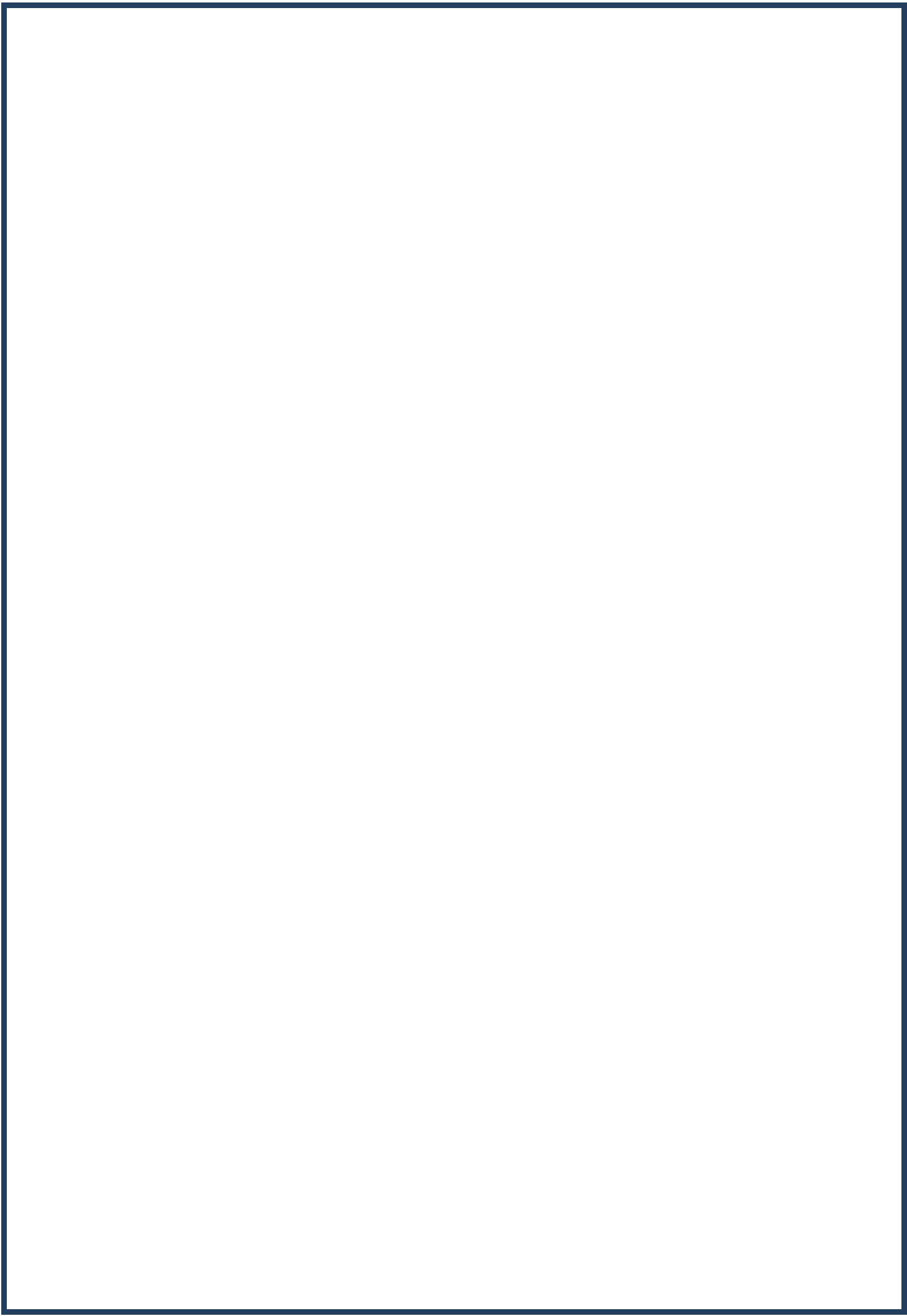
The co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Formulating a written policy;
- Ensuring there is a development plan for Liturgy;
- Ensuring that Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils;
- Ensuring that Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings;
- Organizing themes for worship in consultation with staff
- Assisting the governors in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to Liturgy.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards Liturgy



Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Whole school mass- Beginning of the school year -September. (Years 1-6)	Whole school mass- Epiphany January.(Years 1-6)	St Peter and St Paul Feast Day Mass
Mass for staff to start year	INSET Training – Liturgy for staff	Holy Communion Year 3
Friday morning mass- two classes	Ash Wednesday Mass	RSE Curriculum delivered to Years 3-6
CAFOD assemblies	Reconciliation services for Lent	Year 6 leavers school Mass
Reconciliation services for Advent	Fundraising during Lent- Big Lent Walk	Stay and Pray sessions for families
Rosary Club	Stay and Pray sessions for families	Friday morning mass- two classes

Food donation Foodbank	Ash Wednesday whole school Mass	
All Souls Day service,		

Remembrance Assembly	Seniors Lenten Lunch and Year 6 Stations of the Cross.
EYFS, and Year 1/Year 2 Christmas show in the school hall Year 2 and Year 3 Carol Concert	Easter Service- KS1 And KS2
'Operation Christmas Child-Christmas shoe box appeal.	
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas carol service at Church.	
Advent reconciliation for year 4, 5 and 6	