



## **St Peter's Catholic High School** **Prayer & Liturgy Policy.**

Review date: 09/05/2024

Next review date: 09/05/2026

Reviewed by: Kirsty Houghton (Lay School Chaplain)

Approved by: Mr Andy McGlown (Head Teacher) & Mr Clive Hough (Chair of Governors)

### **St Peter's Catholic High School Mission Statement.**

**"A learning and serving community enriched through friendship and Christian faith"**

### **Rationale:**

**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.)**

Prayer and liturgy are an integral part of the Catholic life and mission of St Peter's Catholic High School. We acknowledge the impact prayer and liturgy has on the Spiritual, Social, moral and cultural development of our pupils and staff and value it as part of the mission and ethos of our school.

All staff, guided by our school chaplain, Head of RE and SLT, consistently plan, lead and deliver prayer & liturgy throughout the academic year.

St Peter's is a Roman Catholic High School and Our Mission Statement "A learning and serving community enriched through friendship and Christian faith" forms the foundation of the Catholic life and mission of our school.

This is expressed through opportunities for prayer and reflection, both privately and as a whole school community, through Assemblies and weekly extended times of collective worship during form.

It is also expressed through sacramental and non-sacramental liturgies during different parts of the year. Our worship is reflected beyond the confines of school, particularly through retreat days, primary school retreats and faith workshops, year group and whole school charity work.

As a Catholic High School, we have a legal requirement to provide all pupils with an opportunity for daily acts of Collective Worship (Prayer & Liturgy) however this goes beyond being a legal requirement, Prayer and liturgy is at the heart of our school community.

### **Purpose**

- The school seeks to actively encourage the whole school community (pupils and staff) to share in the liturgical life of the Church.
- At St Peter's Catholic High School, we recognise that prayer and liturgy is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- It is our aim at St Peter's that, through collective worship, pupils and staff will experience prayer in a variety of forms throughout their school life.
- Prayer and liturgy seek to reaffirm and encourages opportunities to practice school values and live out the school mission statement.
- Prayer & liturgy enables pupils and staff to develop and grow in their relationship with God and their faith.
- In our school our aim is to make opportunities available for prayer, reflection and worship in recognition of all that we do together as a school community.
- We are motivated to involve pupils in the preparation and participation of daily prayer, worship and liturgy.
- Prayer and liturgy in our school community enables pupils and staff to celebrate and give thanks for achievements both personal and within the school community.
- Prayer and liturgy give time and space to reflect and raise concerns in our world both personal and at a global level.

### **Provision**

Provision for prayer and liturgy in our school is a priority, pupils and staff are given the opportunity to experience prayer and liturgy in a variety of forms on a daily basis throughout their time at St Peter's.

Prayer and liturgy (Previously Collective Worship) is resourced by our school chaplain and provision is monitored and evaluated by the school chaplain and Head teacher during line-management meetings.

### **Prayer and liturgy opportunities are available in many different forms at St Peter's;**

- School prayer – Our school prayer is in every class room and available on our school website, staff are encouraged to complete their lessons daily by 3.18 and then close the day with our school prayer.
- Form time extended collective worship – Form teachers are expected to enable their form to take part in an extended time of collective worship each week based on the theme of the week and linking in the scripture dedicated to the theme. Pupils are encouraged to take the lead in this.
- Form time not on the Assembly and Extended Collective worship days should include a short period of prayer.
- Pastoral Assemblies – Heads of year will lead an assembly with their year group each week and incorporate the theme of the week beginning the assembly with the sign of the cross and finishing with a prayer including relevant liturgy.
- Breakfast with God – Pupils and staff are invited every Thursday to attend an interactive prayer and worship time in the KS3 canteen prior to the start of the school day. This is deliberately practised in a busy public area of schools that pupils can witness it.
- Staff briefing – Every Monday staff briefing begins with a prayer to enable staff to reflect and spend a few moments with God before starting the new school week.
- Staff prayer – Every Friday morning at 8.50am staff are encourage to attend a time of prayer and reflection in the chapel. This is led by the school chaplain and other members of staff throughout the year.
- Prayer before exams – Prior to the start of every exam our exams officer or lead invigilator will say the school prayer.
- Inset day reflection time – Each staff training day begins with a time of prayer and reflection.
- Holy days of obligation – On specific Holy days of obligation such as Maundy Thursday, Ascension Thursday, extended collective worship time or assembly will be

held for each year group. Pupils are also encouraged to attend their local parish church.

### **Opportunities to attend Sacramental and Non-Sacramental liturgies**

Throughout the school year pupils and staff are invited to receive the Eucharist during mass;

- Each year Yr 7's will start their St Peter's journey with a welcome mass on their first day, this includes their family members who wish to attend.
- Yr 8-11 will start their new academic year with a "Welcome back" mass, this will be an interactive mass where pupils will have specific roles during the mass.
- During Advent Year group masses will take place beginning with Yr 7 as part of their retreat day programme.
- Yr 11 Leavers Mass takes place towards the end of year 11's time at St Peter's, this mass is to celebrate their time with us and wish them well for their next part of the journey. Parents and other family members are invited to celebrate this mass with us.
- St Peter and Paul's Feast Day mass – Each year we come together as a school community to celebrate the feast day of our School Patron Saint at mass.
- Ash Wednesday – Distribution of ashes takes place during form time when we are in school. This takes place during form time and is done as part of an extended collective worship.
- The school community complete their Advent journey together on the last day with a Christmas Celebration enabling pupils and staff to reflect on their Advent journey individually and as a whole school.

### **Resources for prayer and liturgy.**

- Collective worship calendar – The school chaplain produces a collective worship calendar that incorporates a weekly theme, a piece of scripture and is linked to the liturgical calendar and the SMSC themes. This calendar is given to every head of year and is located in the staff handbook and can be found on our school website.
- Collective worship weekly power point – Each week the school chaplain produces a power point based on the theme of the week, this power point includes a script that can be used and/or adapted by pupils or staff.
- Advent Kindness Calendar – An alternative Advent Calendar is produced each year and incorporates a thought/action for the day and a piece of scripture that tells the story of Advent.
- Lenten thought for the day – During Lent a thought for the day attached to scripture is distributed to staff and pupils for them to reflect on each day. This is also distributed on social media.
- Music, dance, drama, sign language and art are all part of our prayer and liturgy resources, working with all departments to ensure that the Catholic life and mission of our school is at the centre of what we offer.

### **Evaluation of Prayer & Liturgy**

Following the planning of prayer & liturgy, the evaluation and recording needs to be an integral part of the process. This can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the prayer and liturgy is intended or members of the governing body.

Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the students.

The School Chaplain encourages feedback from students and staff on Collective Worship delivery and planning so that we can review and develop the provision.

### **Monitoring of Prayer & Liturgy**

The monitoring of the planning and provision of form time collective worship, assemblies and other prayer and liturgy provision are carried out on a regular basis. The Governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is important that Collective Worship is monitored regularly. SLT and the School Chaplain are responsible for this and make regular half termly visits to different classes and year group assemblies to monitor the prayer and liturgy.

Chris O'Hough 9/5/24