



Prayer & Liturgy Policy

2024 - 2025

'Be the best you can be'

Field Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4AY

Our vision is to create a community based on Catholic faith and values where every child is empowered to be the best he or she can be, nurtured by outstanding teachers, staff and governors

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Our Mission and Vision

'Be the best you can be.'

Our vision is to create a community based on Catholic faith and values where every child is empowered to be the best he or she can be, nurtured by outstanding teachers, staff and governors.

In order to achieve our vision, we:

- Enrich the spiritual dimension of our lives through providing regular opportunities to deepen our relationship with God through worship, prayer and the Holy Eucharist at Mass;
- Provide a high quality of learning and teaching so as to enable each child to fulfil his or her potential;
- Provide a secure and positive environment where each member is valued and encouraged to grow in independence and responsibility;
- Foster a caring community, which consists of pupils, staff, parents, governors and parishioners;
- Are concerned for the welfare of others and support all our community as best we can;
- Ensure the highest possible standards of work and behaviour;
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum;
- Develop an understanding, awareness and enjoyment of the world and its peoples;
- Celebrate and improve each other's individual effort, talents and achievements;
- Develop a creative and aesthetic awareness through varied creative arts opportunities.

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.)

Aims

The purpose of Prayer and Liturgy:

- Ensure that each day all pupils and staff have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection which is in lines with our shared Catholic faith and Gospel values.
- Allow our pupils to develop and deepen their own relationships with God.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Allow our pupils the opportunity to reflect upon their own personal beliefs and to respond and celebrate life.
- To ensure that strong links are made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Ensure that our Prayer and liturgy will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- That a strong moral, reflective and social ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
- That opportunities will exist throughout the year whereby our worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
- Prayer and liturgy will contribute to our school's community cohesion and will promote children's spiritual, social, intellectual and moral development. They will allow our children to develop qualities like tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

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.

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 Coordinator

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 Sacrament
- 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.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

Participation in the daily act of collective worship remains at the helm of every morning, before lunch, after lunch, within RE lessons and at the end of each day.

Every class will have a focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the church's year. Focal points must not be untidy.

Formal Prayer and Liturgy

The purpose of formal prayer and liturgy is to bring staff, pupils and the wider community together to celebrate the sacraments and important events within the liturgical year.

These events are planned and written by Mrs. McGovern, Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator, and Mrs. Edwards, Headteacher, supported by Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants. The Clergy at Holy Family Church meet with the school to collaborate on dates for particular prayer and liturgy opportunities within the year and are asked to support the school in leading on celebrating the sacraments such as Reconciliation and the Mass. The school liaise and invite support from the Clergy to visit the school to help with the delivery of assemblies, liturgies and any other opportunities for prayer such as the Rosary, for example.

Prayer and worship takes place throughout the school day within classrooms, intervention and meeting rooms, outside areas and within the local parish church. The styles and types of prayer and liturgy offered ensures a wide range of engaging and creative experiences of the breadth and richness of the Catholic tradition. Music is an important element of prayer and worship in the school and the school choose hymns/music, which are engaging and age appropriate for their children in line with the liturgical year.

Where and when formal prayer and liturgy takes place

- Staff Briefings/CPD Meetings
- Inset Days
- Weekly Gospel Assemblies
- Weekly Hymn Practice
- Weekly Class Masses
- Whole School Masses for Holy Days of Obligation and Start/End of Term
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- Weekly Class Celebration of the Word
- Prayers at the start and end of the day
- Prayers before and after lunch
- Opportunities for Reconciliation during Advent and Lent
- Advent Service
- Rosary Club during October and May
- Pilgrimages to Walsingham
- School House Feast Days celebrated

Invited visitors and families

- Prayers, reflections and Sunday Gospel readings are shared in the school newsletter to encourage families to pray at home and take part in the prayer life of school.
- Governors, families, and other members of the community and parishes are invited to share in some of our celebrations e.g. class and whole school Mass, Advent Service, etc.
- The Ignite Team, the Youth Mission Team for the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, is booked to come in to school at least once a term to support leading on prayer and liturgy opportunities e.g. Reconciliation Services, Stations of the Cross

Prayers in Class

Every day, the school community say our school prayers in the morning, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day. The children face their Prayer Table in the classroom to use as a focus when saying their prayers. Prayer Tables are aligned to the Liturgical Year through the colour of the cloth and the items laid out e.g. during Lent, Lenten promises might be displayed and there won't be any flowers and during Advent, there might be an Advent Wreath. All Prayer Tables have a Good News Bible, Candle and a Cross.

School Prayers

Morning Prayer

Father in heaven,
You love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father,
Bless me through the day.
Amen

After Lunch

Thank you God for the food we have eaten,
Thank you God for all our friends,
Thank you God for everything,
Thank you God,
Amen

Lunch Prayer

EYFS/KS1

Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the
birds that sing.
Thank you God for everything.
Amen

KS2

Bless us O God as we sit together,
Bless the food we eat today,
Bless the hands that made the food,
Bless us Oh God.
Amen

End of school

God our Father,
I've come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the love you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night,
And in the morning, send your light.
Amen

Weekly Assemblies

Monday: Headteacher's Gospel Assembly

Tuesday: Hymn Practice

Wednesday: Class Assemblies

Thursday: Class Celebration of the Word

Friday: Celebration 'Be the best you can be' Assembly

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to Prayer and Liturgy, regardless of gender, religion, culture or special education needs. Wherever possible full participation in all aspects of Prayer and Liturgy is expected and encouraged.

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.

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.

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.

Review

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

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 26th March 2025 and will be reviewed March 2025

Signed by the Chair of Governors:

Signed by the Headteacher:

