



St Peter and St Paul's RC Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

St Peter and St Paul's R.C. Primary School
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This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 12 May 2025 and will be reviewed May 2026.
Signed *M Borszcz* (Chair of Governors)
Signed *L Bates* (Headteacher)



Mission Statement

**Holding God's hand,
we grow in Faith together,
we dream, believe, achieve.**

**Following in the footsteps of Jesus,
we act with love,
we care for one another and our world.**

Our Core Values

**Love
Respect
Honesty
Compassion
Kindness
Forgiveness**

Context

Collective worship in a Catholic school names 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 with Him and each other, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'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.)

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of collective worship offered 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. 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.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgy. However, given the

importance of Collective Worship 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. 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.

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 RE lead)
- 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) RE Lead

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
- 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Collective worship takes into account 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce 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.'

Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Prayers will be said daily, in the morning, before lunch and at the end of the school day. These will be led by pupils in class. Traditional prayers are also to be said when appropriate e.g. Hail Mary during May and October. Spontaneous prayer is also encouraged.

Morning prayers will follow the timetable below:

Monday	8:50	Whole school Gospel assembly in the hall
Tuesday	8:50	Child-led class 'Celebration of the Word', usually linked to the Gospel of the day
Wednesday	8:50	Y1-6 Virtues to Live By assembly
Thursday	8:50	Virtue to Live By discussion/meditation/circle time in class
Friday	8:50	Whole School Celebration Assembly

'Celebrations of the Word' will take place every Tuesday morning after registration. These will follow the 4 part structure

- ❖ Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment
- ❖ Word – the Word of God is proclaimed
- ❖ Response – the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action
- ❖ Send – giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Pairs or small groups of pupils will plan and lead these sessions using the given theme and the piece of scripture. They will use the welcome, worship and witness cards and the planning template to support them, shepherded by an adult. Each pupil will have had an opportunity to plan and lead at least once in a year. See progression document in Appendix 1.

Our school uses the 'Virtues to Live By' scheme. This enables us to explore each virtue over a three week period (two per half term) to improve the school community's virtue literacy and to deepen understanding and appreciation of the essential role the virtues play in the education

of the whole person towards human flourishing. The virtues chosen are common across cultures and faiths, but are sourced from the Christian tradition.

	Year A		Year B	
Autumn 1	Respect/Courtesy	Thankfulness	Love of Learning	Citizenship
Autumn 2	Hope	Patience	Prayer	Generosity
Spring 1	Faith	Simplicity	Friendship	Love of Neighbour
Spring 2	Love/Charity	Forgiveness	Self-Control	Reflection
Summer 1	Resilience/ Perseverance	Kindness	Confidence	Trust
Summer 2	Honesty	Service	Courage	Wisdom

These virtues are celebrated and discussed in assembly, and in classes through circle time and meditation. Certificates are presented weekly to pupils who display these virtues.

Pupils will celebrate Holy Mass regularly. KS2 classes will each visit St Patrick's RC Church during the Autumn Term to celebrate Mass. In the Spring Term class masses are celebrated with Father in school. Whole school Masses will take place in the school hall to celebrate key feast days and seasons in the Liturgical Calendar e.g. All Saints, Christmas, Holy Week, Ascension. See Key Dates document.

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

Music and Hymns

Incorporating music and hymns into school prayer enhances spiritual reflection, to set the tone of reverence, meditation or celebration. Hymns with meaningful lyrics can reinforce themes of faith, gratitude, love and peace. Our school selects hymns based on the Liturgical Calendar, Gospel themes and the time of year. There is a document to aid staff with this. As part of child-led liturgy, pupils will often choose their own hymns to sing linked to the theme of the Word. As well as hymns, video clips with reflective music may be used to allow pupils to be still and relaxing music to aid reflection and meditation.

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

Appendix 1 - Progression in Prayer and Liturgy at St Peter & St Paul's

	Common Prayers	Mass responses and gestures	Child-led Liturgy
EYFS	The Sign of the Cross Our School Prayer Grace before meals Home Time Prayer	The Sign of the Cross Simple responses during Mass such as 'And with your Spirit'	Pupils to be supported by an adult to set up the prayer focus by choosing a suitable artefacts from a limited choice. Pupils will join in with the gathering song and lead the sign of the cross. They will pass objects around the circle and join in with prayers where possible. Adults will model the planning process (e.g. choosing a 'Gather' element from a selection of two) and as the year progresses, pupils will begin to do this with the support of an adult. The Whole class will evaluate the liturgy verbally and this will influence future practice.
KS1	The Lord's Prayer Hail Mary	Simple responses during Mass such as 'And with your Spirit' 'Thanks be to God' 'Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ' Response to Prayers of the Faithful	Pupils will set up the focus/prayer table, choosing from a limited selection of artefacts and images. Pupils will lead the sign of the cross and the welcome element of the liturgy. Celebrations of the Word will be planned as a class by choosing between two given activity cards for each of the parts of welcome, response and send. The Whole class will evaluate the liturgy verbally and this will influence future practice. In Year 2 pupils will take on a greater role in leading the liturgy by reading, choosing prayers and hymns, saying who/what they want to pray for.
LKS2	Glory Be Eternal Rest Act of Contrition	As above, plus: Lord Have Mercy Gospel Acclamation Holy, Holy, Holy Gestures such as the sign of the cross before the Gospel, sign of peace, genuflecting	Pupils in KS2 (pairs from each class) will meet with the Chaplain to discuss and plan their class Celebration of the Word. Based on the given scripture, pupils will use the planning cards to decide what their class will do for each of the parts of 'Gather', 'Response' and 'Send'. They will choose appropriate music or hymns and prayers to say Pupils will set up the focus/prayer table, including the liturgical colour and lead the celebration, shepherded by the class teacher. Pupils will comment on what went well and what they can do to improve.
UKS2	The Rosary The Apostles Creed Angelus	As above, plus: Memorial Acclamation Lamb of God	As LKS2 and Pupils will write their own prayers and encourage spontaneous prayers for the 'Response' when appropriate. Where relevant, for the 'Send' part they will encourage their peers to link the scripture to our School Mission Statement, School Values or Virtues to Live By. Pupils will discuss what went well, what they can do to improve and how they felt about the prayer and liturgy that they have taken part in/led. By the end of Year 6 pupils will be able to confidently and independently plan and lead their class 'Celebration of the Word'.

