

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
September 2025	September 2027	Louise Norris	Father Kevin Hale

Loving like Mary

Serving like Mary

Learning like Mary

Believing like Mary

'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' Matthew 18:20

At Our Lady of Lourdes, school prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are central to the Catholic life of our school. We actively respond to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

School prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are central to the life of our school and our Catholic nature. These allow all members of our community to come together and worship God. Whilst we respect the diversity of belief in the world and are committed to the teaching of other faiths; we are dedicated to nurturing a school which is Christ-centred in character. We encourage children to experience worship and liturgical celebrations in a relevant and meaningful manner. Our prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share it.

Prayer and Liturgy is an essential part of our distinctive ethos: celebrating our faith and deepening our relationship with God through prayer, reflection and celebration. Our staff ensure that children are provided with opportunities to develop their personal spirituality and a close relationship with God through acts of worship.

1. 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.

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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.

2. Legal requirements

Within maintained schools and academies, there is a legal requirement for an act of collective worship to take place daily. Those responsible for the governance of schools with a religious character are legally required to ensure that collective worship is provided and is in accordance with the trust deed or religious designation of the school.

In Catholic maintained schools and academies, this daily requirement will be fulfilled variedly as described in this Directory. In schools where this legal requirement holds, parents can choose to withdraw their children up to Year 11.

In all Catholic schools (maintained, academies, independent, non-maintained special, sixth-form colleges), prayer and liturgy are integral to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils' moral and spiritual development. Taking part in daily prayer and liturgy helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the core values and symbols of Christianity.

Prayer and liturgy are, therefore, an important part of a Catholic school's distinctive character. They are integral to the Catholic identity and life of the school, and they would take place in all Catholic schools, whether or not schools were required by statute to provide collective worship. Notably, too, pupil participation and engagement in prayer and liturgy are crucially important criteria in the diocesan inspection of Catholic education. Therefore, we have replaced the term 'collective worship' with the phrase 'prayer and liturgy', which more fittingly describes its role in a Catholic school. The bishop entrusts his responsibility for prayer and liturgy to the governors and headteachers. It is their responsibility to ensure that it is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

3. 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

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- 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 (appendix 2)*** for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer progression Directory (appendix 2)
- 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.

4. Prayer and liturgy provision

Prayer and Liturgy play a daily role in school following a daily and weekly pattern of prayer. Daily prayers form natural pause points in the school day and an opportunity for children to give thanks. These are: morning prayer, grace before and after meals, evening prayer.

The weekly pattern of prayer may take the form of:

- Whole school or Key Stage Celebration of the Word, led by the Headteacher or Deputy
- Key Stage Celebration of the Word led by teacher and children
- Hymn Practice with Celebration of the Word
- Celebration Assembly with Celebration of the Word
- Classroom worship

The Prayer and Liturgy coordinator ensures that all staff have access to resources to support the delivery of the Celebration of the Word in classroom settings and are supported to lead and help children to lead key stage celebrations.

The overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision (Appendix 1) outlines when prayer and liturgy takes place: showing the daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy offered in school and

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notes the occasions when Mass is celebrated and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The plan also notes special school liturgical celebrations.

The Annual Plan of Provision (Appendix 2) includes further detail, for example, dates, who is responsible. For this reason, this document is updated at the start of each academic year.

Prayer progression from Nursery to Year 6

Age phase	EYFS	5-7 (KS1)	7 -9 (Lower KS2)	9 – 11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	The Sign of the Cross (R only) Morning prayer Grace before meals Grace after meals Afternoon prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sign of the Cross • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory be • Grace before meals • Grace after meals The OLOL school prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Apostles' Creed •An Act of Contrition •Angel of God •Come, Holy Spirit •The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester The Memorare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love Hail Holy Queen

These prayers reflect the expectations of the Directory. Additions have been made in Key Stage 2 to reflect the Marian traditions that are at the heart of our school.

Each class has a copy of the school prayer book (appendix 2) and it is shared on the school website.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

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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.

8. Review

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

Appendices:

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Appendix 1 Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Prayer in class N – Y6	Morning Prayer in class N – Y6	Morning Prayer in class N – Y6	Morning Prayer in class N – Y6	Morning Prayer in class N – Y6
10.15am Celebration of the Word: WSA Gospel focus and worship in song. Led by HT/DHT Focus: Sunday's Gospel	10.15am Celebration of the Word: WSA Teacher Led or Pupil Led Focus: Assembly Plan	EYFS, KS1, In class prayer Focus: Assembly Plan	10.00am Celebration of the Word: EYFS & KS1 – with hymn practice: Focus Assembly Plan	KS2, In class prayer Focus: Assembly Plan
		10.00am Celebration of the Word with Hymn Practice – KS2	9.00am Celebration assembly KS2 with Celebration of the Word	9.00am Celebration Assembly KS1 with Celebration of the Word
Grace before meals in class N – Y6	Grace before meals in class N – Y6	Grace before meals in class N – Y6	Grace before meals in class N – Y6	Grace before meals in class N – Y6
Grace after meals in class N – Y6	Grace after meals in class N – Y6	Grace after meals in class N – Y6	Grace after meals in class N – Y6	Grace after meals in class N – Y6
Evening prayer in class N – Y6	Evening prayer in class N – Y6	Evening prayer in class N – Y6	Evening prayer in class N – Y6	Evening prayer in class N – Y6

Mass and Reconciliation									
	N	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Parents
Feast of Holy Cross									
Feast of All Saints									
KS1 Advent Service									
Advent Reconciliation									
Epiphany (<i>if in school</i>)									
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes									
Ash Wednesday									
KS1 Ash Wednesday service									
KS1 Lenten Service									
Lenten Reconciliation									
Feast of the Ascension									
Feast of St Peter and St Paul									
Year 6 Leavers Mass									

Special Celebrations									
	N	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Parents
EYFS Nativity									N & R
KS1 Nativity									Y1&Y2
KS2 Christmas Carol Service									
Y5 roll Back the Stone									
Whole school Crowning of Mary									

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Prayer and Liturgy Plan of Provision Appendix 2

Date	Prayer and Liturgy Event	Responsibility	Participants
1.9.25	Staff New Year Service	HT	Staff
14.9.25	Education Sunday/Feast of the Holy Cross Mass	HT	Parish and School
23.9.25	Year 6 Stay and Pray	Year 6	KS2 and Year 6 Parents
30.9.25	Year 5 Stay and Pray	Year 5	KS2 and Year 5 Parents
	Month of October - Rosary Club	DHT	Liturgy Prefects, Invited Classes Parents
07.10.25	Year 4 Stay and Pray	Year 4	KS2 and Year 4 Parents
14.10.25	Year 3 Stay and Pray	Year 3	KS2 and Year 3 Parents
	Month of November - Remembrance		
23.10.25	Christ the King Mass with the Parish	HT	Parish and School
02.12.25	Advent Service	HT	KS2 KS1
09-10.12.25	KS1 Nativity	Year 2 teachers	KS1 and Parents
12.12.25	EYFS Nativity	EYFS Lead	EYFS and Parents
16.12.25	KS2 Nativity Service	HT	KS2 and Parents
06.1.26	Epiphany Mass	HT (Staff)	KS2 and Parish
11.2.26	LOLO Feast Day Mass	HT (Year 6)	KS1 and 2 and Parish
17.3.26	Reconciliation Service for Lent KS2	HT	KS2 KS1
24.3.26	Easter Celebration	Year 5	Whole School and Parents
21.4.26	Year 4 Stay and Pray	Year 4	KS2 and Parents
28.4.26	Year 3 Stay and Pray	Year 3	KS2 and Parents

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	Month of May - Rosary Club	DHT	Liturgy Prefects, Invited Classes Parents
06.5.26	Year 5 Stay and Pray	Year 5	KS2 and Parents
14.05.26	Ascension Day Mass	HT (Year 4)	KS2 and Parish
19.05.25	Mary May Crowning	HT	Whole School and Parents
16.6.26	Year 2 Stay and Pray	Year 2	KS1 and Parents
23.6.26	Year 1 Stay and Pray	Year 1	KS1 and Parents
28.6.26	St Peter and St Paul Mass	HT (Year 3)	KS2 and Parish
01.07.26	Leavers Mass @ 9.30	Year 6 and Year 5 support	UKS2 and Parents and Parish