

# PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY



**Bishop Challoner**  
Catholic Secondary School

## 1. Introduction

'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.)

## 2. Statement of Requirements

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all students (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; 70 Instrument of Government, clause 2).

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)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil students' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which students 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.

## 3. Responsibility

### 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
- the Lay Chaplain is the named person responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school.
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

### 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 Lay Chaplain 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.

### Lay Chaplain,

The Lay Chaplain is 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 Sacraments.
- there is daily planned prayer for all students, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

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- students 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 students.
- 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 of St Joseph's and St Bede's Basingstoke; St Michael's and St Oswald's, Tadley, Sacred Heart, Hook and St John the Baptist, Andover.
- liaison with CASO, in the Portsmouth Diocese, and attendance at training and formation events.

## 4. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Our **daily** pattern of Prayer includes;

**Morning Prayer** During morning registration. Shared via the bulletin and created by a variety of students across all year groups. Once a week, a *Celebration of The Word*, created and led by students takes place.

**Grace Before Meals** A bell sounds one minute before the lunchtime bell. All classes pause to pray Grace. Using either our Challoner Graces PPT or Booklet.

**Prayer at the End of the Day**, signified by a bell at 3.30. Class teachers or students will either lead a spontaneous prayer, or use one from our School Prayer Booklet, or the Youth Catholic Prayer Book.

Our **weekly** pattern of Prayer includes;

**A Celebration of the Word Assembly for one Year Group each day.** These reflect the liturgical Year, Feasts, Seasons, focused themes (e.g. Jubilee Year) and UK/ Global themes (e.g. Black History month/ Mental health and Wellbeing week). Staff are supported to ensure that these assemblies are rooted in scripture and offer meaningful spiritual reflection.

- Year 11 Monday
- Year 10 Tuesday
- Year 9 Wednesday
- Year 8 Thursday
- Year 7 Friday

**Rosary** - This is prayed in the Chapel every Tuesday lunchtime

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - This is in the Chapel on alternate Friday during lunchtimes

**Mass** - This is in the Chapel every Thursday at 8.00am

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** - This offered on a rolling programme across five weeks, supported by a Parish Priest who hears confessions between 9.20am and 11.20am.

**Staff Prayer** – All staff briefing begin with a prayer. On Monday this is led by the Headteacher. On Friday there is a rota for all staff members to sign up.

Our **Monthly** pattern of Prayer includes;

**KS3 Tutor Masses** - Celebrated by different local Priests across the year.

**Whole School Masses** - Will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church for all Holy Days and Solemnities that fall during the school term. Including our Patronal Feast Day, All Saints Day, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, St Peter and St Paul.

**Reconciliation Services** - Include the opportunity to speak to a priest/ receive the sacrament of reconciliation, offered during Advent and Lent.

**Special Times of Prayer** - Will also occur throughout the school year, for example Jubilee Year Prayer Stations, Prayers for someone important who has died, Prayers for the persecuted on Red Wednesday.

**Other opportunities for Prayer and Worship** (also see our Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Worship)

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## 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, evaluation and review

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: students, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.