



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Approved by ¹	
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Signed:	<i>Simone Beach</i>
Date:	Sept 26
Review date ² :	Sept 28

¹ The Governing Body are free to delegate approval of this document to a Committee of the Governing Body, an individual Governor or the Head teacher

² Governing Bodies, Proprietors and Management Committees free to determine – **DfE recommend annually**

REVIEW SHEET

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1		
2.		
3.		

Our Vision

Loving, Learning, Achieving, Believing

In our welcoming and caring environment every child can be happy, confident and supported in achieving excellence. Our teaching reflects our Catholic faith enabling our children to develop and deepen their relationship with God.

Love one another as I have loved you

Our Mission:

At Sacred Heart School we are called to change the world by:

- Acting justly and with love: to speak for the voiceless and defend the defenceless
- Being a joyful and courageous witness of the Gospel, carrying to the world a ray of God's light.
- Becoming caretakers of our world through knowing that Creation is not a good to be exploited but a gift to be looked after.

1. 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.)

2. 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;

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.

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
- 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 Sacraments
- 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.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

PRINCIPLES

All Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Celebrate the presence of God in our life and in our community.
- Be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Support learner's spiritual development
- Give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds. In order to do this, celebrations will;

-be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help personalise the experience;

-be of appropriate length and pace and age appropriate to learners.

-seek to involve learners in preparation and leadership.

PLANNING, CONTENT and DELIVERY of PRAYER AND LITURGY

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RE Scheme, Values for Life scheme, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in some acts of worship.
- To develop in our learners, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contribution in a token way.
- Due to shortened day and teacher workload/directed time - teachers are using Ten ten daily Prayers for their collective worship in class.

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

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

9.5 Common prayers

This list is introduced in section 7.10 ('Common prayers').

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)	11–14 (KS3)
Prayers	• The Sign of the Cross • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory be • Grace before meals • Grace after meals	• The Apostles' Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	• Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love	• The Benedictus • The Angelus • Hail Holy Queen • The Memorare • Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you • Eternal Rest

Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

(From the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory, September 2022)

In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.

Definition of Terms

Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.

Prayer	Liturgical Prayer	Liturgy
Christian meditation	Service of the Word	Sacraments:
Prayer before meals	Assembly	Mass
		Penance
Devotions		Benediction