

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body from April 2025 and will be reviewed as advised.

Signed by the Chair of Governors: *Mrs E. Proffitt*

Signed by the Headteacher: *Mrs L. Salters*

School Mission Statement:

“Serving with love, Striving for excellence”

Our Catholic School exists to create and sustain an environment which has Christ and His teachings at its very heart. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and by working in partnership with priests, parishioners and our families, we can establish a community of love, peace and harmony between all in a climate of mutual trust and openness.

We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents, giving all children confidence and self-esteem through praise, encouragement and acceptance of their worth.

Ubi Caritas et amor deus ibi est

Where there is love and kindness there is God

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; 70 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)). 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

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 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.

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

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 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

Day	Prayer and Liturgy Elements
Monday	Daily prayers Weekly Worship (led by SLT in two groups)
Tuesday	Daily prayers
Wednesday	Daily prayers Class-based collective worship (led by class teacher)
Thursday	Daily prayers
Friday	Daily prayers Celebration Worship Assembly

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

Mass is celebrated on special feast days and celebrations that are planned closely with our Parish Priest, Father Moses.

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	<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 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Offering The Rosary The Magnificat Act of Faith Act of Hope Act of Love

Prayer and Liturgy Annual Overview 2025/2026

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1		SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
	Ordinary Time	Advent	Christmas	Ordinary Time	Lent	Eastertide	Ordinary Time
Celebration of the Word	Monday = Weekly Worship (led by a member of SLT) Wednesday = Class-based Worship (led by class teacher) Friday = Celebration Worship (led by Headteacher) Daily prayers throughout the week Mass celebrated for certain feast days and celebrations						
Liturgical feast days and seasons	Season of Creation Feast of St. Vincent de Paul	Feast of All Saints Remembrance Christ the King Advent	Epiphany Baptism of the Lord Presentation of the Lord	Ash Wednesday Lent Palm Sunday Holy Week	Eastertide Ascension of the Lord Pentecost	The Body and Blood of Christ Saints Peter and Paul	
Prayers to introduce (also linked to RE Curriculum)	Nur & Rec = The Sign of the Cross Every class = Daily prayers (morning prayer, lunchtime prayer and home time prayer) Yr 1 = The Lord's Prayer	Yr 1 = Hail Mary KS2 = Eterhal Rest					
Sacraments	Start of a new school year Mass (led by Fr. Moses) Feast Day Mass (led by Fr. Moses)	Advent Mass	Our Lady of Lourdes Mass	Lent Mass	Good Shepherd Mass	Sacred Heart Mass	
Other opportunities for prayer	Harvest Celebration (led by EYFS) Little Way Week (focus on St Therese of Lisieux)	Remembrance Day Nativity Play Beatitudes The Rosary Challenge 2025					

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, 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

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