St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Mission Statement 'Enter to learn, learn to serve'

At St Anthony's, it is our mission to provide a high quality education, in a Gospel-centered community, where individual needs and talents are appreciated and catered for. We will strive for excellence in all that we do. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us do something beautiful for God

Date of issue	Review date	Date ratified by Governing Body
November 2024	September 2026	November 2024

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; 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.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am - 9:20am	9:00am - 9:20am	9:00am - 9:20am	9:00am - 9:20am	9:00am - 9:20am
Whole School Celebration of the Word Led by Mrs Kenyon	**Whole School** Led by Mrs Moran	**Class Based Worship** Led by Class Teachers or **Whole School / Class Mass** Led by Fr. Simon	**Class Based Worship** Led by Class Teachers	**Child Led Celebration of the Word** Class COTW Peer to Peer COTW Buddying COTW or Mark 10 Mission Led by Children in each class
Grace				
12:05pm - 12:30pm	12:05pm - 12:30pm	12:05pm - 12:20pm	12:20pm - 12:30pm	12:05pm - 12:30pm
	Little Lunchtime Liturgy for EYFS & KS1 Led by Ethos Group		**Little Lunchtime Liturgy** for KS2 Led by Ethos Group	
The Examen and Evening Prayer				**Evening Prayer**

Mass

The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church and thus, is central to the life of the school's community. The whole school attend Mass at St Anthony's Church each half term and on holy days of obligation. Children from all year groups participate during Mass through reading the first and second readings, responsorial psalm, the Gospel acclamation, the prayers of the faithful and whilst carrying the gifts during the offertory procession. Children and adults join in the responses and acclamations and the singing of hymns. In addition to whole school mass, classes attend Wednesday morning Mass in peer groups each half term: upper KS2, lower KS2, KS1 and Reception.

Liturgy

Throughout the year, each class lead a liturgy for the whole school to which Fr Simon and parents are invited.
Harvest Liturgy – Year 2
Remembrance Liturgy – Year 6
Advent Liturgy – Year 3
Christingle Liturgy – Year 1
Lenten Liturgy – Year 4
Stations of the Cross – Year 5
May Procession – Ethos Group
Service of the Nativity – KS2

Celebration of the Word

The 4-part worship model - Gather, Liturgy of the Word, Respond and Go Forth is used throughout school.

- Whole School Celebration of the Word – led by Mrs Kenyon takes place on Monday mornings in the school hall.

- Class Celebration of the Word – led by worship leaders in each class takes place on Friday mornings in every classroom.

All children are taught to plan and deliver worship according to their age with Nursery children choosing artefacts to Year 6 children planning and delivering independently. Children are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their worship regularly.

Sing and Praise

Sing and Praise is led by Mrs Moran on Tuesday mornings for Reception – Year 6. Traditional and modern hymns and songs are taught and practised to include in the different forms of worship. It is also an opportunity for child formation as Mass responses, acclamations and prayers are taught and learnt.

Meditation

Meditation, the practice of silence and still consciousness of the presence of God, is carried out throughout school. Meditation can be exercised during Celebration of the Word or at other appropriate times of the day. Children are taught to sit in silence and open their mind and heart to God.

Prayer Journaling

Children and adults have Prayer Journals and are encouraged to write their own prayers in them. Prayer Journals can be used during Celebration of the Word or at other times of the day. The different types of prayers, range of prayer starters and prayer endings are taught.

Little Lunchtime Liturgy

Voluntary lunchtime prayers and Celebration of the Word are led by children from the Ethos Group.

Sacraments

The Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation are prepared for in school and at home using the Diocese of Leeds resources:
Heart Speaks to Heart: The Gift of Reconciliation
Heart Speaks to Heart: The Gift of Holy Communion
The Sacrament of Confirmation
During Lent, KS2 children's confessions are heard by Fr Simon in school.

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. Traditional prayers as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory will be taught to children and staff and incorporated in Celebrations of the Word, and other parts of the day such as before meals, and morning and evening prayer time.

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.