



St Joan of Arc School
Growing together

Policy

Prayer and Liturgy

2025-27

Mission Statement

Through Love, Service, Respect and Courage, we grow closer to God.

Policy revised: April 2025 | Review Date: June 2027

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 Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils (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 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

(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 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

Liturgy shapes prayer and worship to enable all pupils to have a conscious, active, meaningful and fruitful participation. (Christ at the Centre, 2012)

Acts of prayer & worship at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School take place in a variety of forms. These are supported by the learning environments around the school, which reflect the school's Catholic identity, values and mission.

Daily Prayers

The daily routine of school involves time for prayers:

- Each morning begins with a Morning Prayer
- Grace before children go for their lunch
- End of day prayer

Prayer Leaders lead the daily prayers and involve inviting the children to a prayerful mind-frame as well as provide an opportunity for personal intentions.

Prayers are also said during other acts of prayer & worship. Spontaneous prayer is encouraged responding to the needs of the children and the wider community.

Alongside our school prayers, we recognise that prayer is individual for each person, and a variety of ways of prayer is offered throughout the year.

Mass

As Catholics, we believe the centre of our faith is the Eucharist. Through this Sacrament we are joined in communion with Christ. We celebrate Mass in our Parish Church on Holy Days of Obligation, during significant times of the school year and on a weekly class rota. Mass is celebrated as a whole school, as classes, and in phase groups. Children are responsible for reading the first and second reading and psalms. They write their own bidding prayers. Children are trained how to read during Mass.

In addition to celebrating Mass on Holy Days of Obligation, we also celebrate the following:

Autumn	Spring	Summer
• Start of term Mass • End of term Christmas Mass	• Start of term Mass • End of term Mass	• Start of term Mass • Year 6 Leavers' Mass • Year 2 Graduation Mass • St. Joan of Arc Feast Day Mass

Weekly overview of prayer and liturgy:

Monday	Whole school Celebration of The Word
Tuesday	Class Celebration of The Word
Wednesday	Traditional type of prayer
Thursday	KS2 celebration assembly KS1 singing assembly
Friday	KS1 celebration assembly KS2 singing assembly

Child Led Worship

Central to supporting children in their learning and growing in love of Christ is the opportunity to plan and lead acts of worship. Children from across the school are supported to plan and lead their class in a time of worship. Prayer Leaders lead daily prayers providing opportunities for intentions and spontaneous prayer both in and out of the classroom. Prayer & worship planned and led by the children takes place in each class at least once a week. The worship can be linked to the half termly Catholic Social Teaching theme.

Teacher Led Worship

Each teacher will plan and lead a Celebration of The Word with their class once a week. The teacher will also lead a traditional type of prayer each week so that children's opportunities to pray in a variety of ways is encouraged e.g. the Lectio Divina or The Examen.

Aut 1	Rosary
Aut 2	Lectio Divina
Spr 1	Visio Divina
Spr 2	5 Finger Prayer

Sum 1	Traditional Prayers
Sum 2	Examen

Key Stages

Each week, the school gathers in key stages to come together for prayer & worship in an assembly. Teachers take turns to lead this once a week and themes are linked to feast days, topical issues or CST themes. They involve children in the planning and delivery of the assembly. Prayer Leaders can lead traditional prayers and Celebration of The Word can be celebrated.

Hymn Practice

A teacher leads weekly hymn practice where children learn a variety of songs and hymns, both contemporary and traditional. The liturgical year guides the choice of music used for worship. Children learn hymns related to parts of the Mass, traditional hymns as well as general and modern worship hymns.

Whole School Worship / Gospel Assembly

On a Monday morning, the whole school comes together for prayer & worship / Gospel Assembly. A Celebration of the Word takes place as well usually related to Sunday's Gospel. Prayer Leaders lead prayers and provide an opportunity for intentions. Our Christian Values of Love Service Respect and Courage are celebrated through House Champions as well as the LSRC Legend Award.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation services planned during the seasons of Advent and Lent are led by the Parish Priest and provide the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a priest.

Other Liturgies

Throughout the year, we celebrate different liturgies linked to the life of the Church such as the Carol Service, St. Joan of Arc Day and Stations of the Cross etc. Children from different year groups are involved in the planning and preparation of these.

Staff Prayer

Catholic schools are committed to communal prayer, and as such, Staff and Governor meetings always begin with a time of prayer at the beginning of their meetings. Teachers attend a whole staff Mass at the beginning of the school year with other schools in the Deanery.

Prayer Tables

Prayer tables are there to support prayer & worship and the Catholic Life of the school. Each classroom has a prayer table and crucifix in a central location. The prayer table will be covered with a coloured cloth matching the liturgical year. On the prayer table, there will be a prayer folder where the children can contribute their own written prayers. Children are encouraged to use the prayer table individually as well as for collective worship. Resources will be available on the prayer table for children to engage with. Around the school, prayer tables and focal points are provided to enhance worship and allow children to explore their faith further.

Home school links

Links with home to support prayer & liturgy are important. Parents are invited to join certain acts of worship in school. Parents are invited to all school Masses and prayer resources are shared with parents.

Children have the opportunity to take the prayer folder home on a Friday and return the following Monday with a prayer they have written with their family.

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. There is a dedicated prayer space in the Peace Garden. 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. Mini Vinnies and Prayer Leaders are trained to support children in the planning of prayer & worship sessions.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The RE Subject Lead will monitor the delivery of collective worship at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School. Worship planning sheets, photographs and evidence of the children's prayers and reflections are collated in the Prayer and Liturgy file which is monitored throughout the year. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate. Monitoring also allows opportunities for good practise to be identified, shared and celebrated. Governors attend the school termly and will visit some prayer & worship sessions.

Apr 2026
RE Coordinator

Review date
Jun 2027

**This Policy is reviewed biennially
or earlier if necessary by:**

The Governing Body

It was last reviewed in

April 2025

It will next be reviewed in

June 2027



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