ST. GERARD'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY AND
NURSERY SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2026-27



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

"Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

"St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment".

Halton Children and Young People
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20)

At St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. Catholic prayer and liturgy is always Christological (centred on Christ) and Trinitarian (we pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit). The prayer and liturgy that takes place at our school forms part of the life of prayer and liturgy of the whole Church, but is celebrated in an appropriate manner for the educational setting.

To ensure that Jesus Christ is at the centre of our Catholic school, prayer and liturgy is at the heart of our community. It is integral to the spiritual life of our school and helps to develop pupils morally and spiritually. As our community is inclusive of people who are not Catholic or Christians, we have a unique opportunity to authentically present our tradition of Catholic prayer and liturgy, whilst at the same time providing a welcoming environment for all pupils and staff.

Within our school, prayer and liturgy is experienced in many forms:

Individual Classes	Key Stages	Whole School
Daily prayers Weekly worship Meditation	Weekly Celebration of the Word	Assemblies Feast Day Celebrations Masses

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.

<u>Participation</u>

To participate 'fully', individuals engage through body, mind, and spirit, and appreciate that the whole gathered community is involved on an individual level. To participate 'consciously', individuals have an appreciation of the meaning of what is happening and has a glimpse into the mystery, therefore worship should be appropriate to the participant's age and development. To participate 'actively' means to enter the worship with an openness to God's

grace, so that the encounter can change us and have a direct impact on the way we live our lives in the future.

Prayer

Prayer is an opportunity for us to lift our hearts and minds to God. Communal prayer forms an essential dimension of life in our school, and staff and pupils are invited to recognise God's action in their life and the life of the school. Communal prayer takes place at key points in the school day including lunch time and at the end of the school day. Prayer is also offered to staff and governors regularly. Praying and celebrating together provides staff with an opportunity to deepen their own live spiritually and experience a range of prayer.

Worship

In a Catholic school, Religious Education is the core of the curriculum. Furthermore, each member of the community is strengthened by the school's prayer and liturgy, particularly by the word of God and the Eucharist. The parish priest plays an important role in supporting the spiritual life of the school, in the celebration of the liturgy and its preparation, and in forging links with the wider Church.

All adults, regardless of their religious background, are able to draw upon their experience and talents to enhance the preparation and celebration of worship. Within the classroom, adults facilitate prayer and liturgy for pupils and teach children how to meaningfully participate in order to grow in faith.

Worship is an integral part of school life and it gives children the opportunity to live the faith. Stimulating and engaging methods of prayer are an essential part of daily classroom life, and this allows children to participate in a way that is suitable for them. When gathering for worship, children gather in classes, key stages and as a whole school. During worship, children are encouraged to be responsible, resourceful, reflective and reciprocal. A range of strategies are used such as music, singing, individual prayer and collective prayer. There are also opportunities for stillness, silence, reflection and reverence. All worship follows the structure of Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth, as instructed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. All worship also includes an element of sacred silence, which allows us to pause and reflect on what God is saying to us.

Pupils of various ages and abilities take an active role in organising and leading prayer and liturgy in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. There is progression in children's participation and contribution to leading worship from EYFS to Year 6. For example, in EYFS and KS1, children may set up the focus table and choose hymns whereas in upper key stage 2, children may plan all stages of worship.

Celebration of the Word

This term is used for celebrations which are created for the school community and not take directly from the liturgical books of the Church. A common element is the proclamation of scripture and these include weekly key stage worships, special assemblies, carol services and gatherings for special times and occasions. Celebrations may draw upon elements of the liturgy such as its texts, symbols and gestures, to reinforce its Catholic nature, however these may be used more creatively.

Responsibilities

Within maintained schools, there is a legal requirement for an act of collective worship to take place daily. The governors of the school are legally required to ensure that collective worship is provided and is in accordance with the trust deed or religious designation of the school. The headteacher is ultimately responsible for the implementation of prayer and liturgy policy agreed by the governing body. This is done by having oversight of prayer and liturgy in the school, and ensuring it is understood as central to the school's unique mission. They will do this in collaboration with the RE/Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator. It is important for those involved in the leadership of Prayer and Liturgy to model good practice and ensure that it is well organised, led, monitored and evaluated. They should also provide relevant support and resources for staff and pupils where required. Coordinators are expected to keep updated with the best practice and ongoing formation through contact with diocesan advisors and others. They are also responsible for keeping parents and carers informed about the prayer and liturgical life of the school, including key events. Through the school website and other media, they can provide resources to help parents and carers to make links at home with prayer and liturgy, and so help to build up the Domestic Church.

Resources

Staff have access to a wide range of resources to support high quality worship each day. All classes are highly resourced to create enriching focus tables that enhance worship. Prayer and liturgy is resourced through artefacts, candles, cloths, statues, bibles and other religious books. A range of resources from Cafod, Mission Together and Mission are also used. To support with planning and delivery, teachers also use resources provided by the coordinator. This include guidance which contains a liturgical calendar, themes, scripture, feast days and prayers.

Policy Updated

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By: Miss L. Sanders (Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)