

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



“With God’s love, we are a Family; Caring, Learning and Growing together”

Date of policy	September 2025
Written by	Joanne Harrison
Review date	September 2026
Ratified by	

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

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"With God's Love, we are a Family, Caring, Learning and Growing Together."

1. Introduction

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

At St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, prayer and liturgy are at the heart of our mission to nurture every child's spiritual and moral growth. We believe worship is an encounter with God that deepens faith, strengthens community, and inspires action. Collective worship is central to daily life and reflects the richness of our Catholic tradition. Working in partnership with St Wilfrid's Parish, Widnes, and Fr Mark Moran, we ensure that prayer and liturgy form the spiritual heartbeat of our school.

"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

2. Intent

Through Prayer and Liturgy, we aim to foster a love of God and a living faith that influences every part of school life.

- Nurture a living relationship with God through prayer, reflection, and worship.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.
- Enable pupils to encounter God in word, silence, symbol, and sacrament.
- Foster awe, wonder, gratitude, and reverence for God's presence in daily life.
- Build a strong sense of belonging and community rooted in Christ's love.
- Promote inclusion, respect, and understanding across all faith backgrounds.

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

3. Implementation

Prayer and liturgy are embedded in every aspect of school life. They are planned using the Gather – Listen – Respond – Go Forth model and provide children with opportunities to meet God through scripture, song, silence, and celebration.

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

- Monday – Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy (staff rota)
- Tuesday–Thursday – Class-based Prayer and Liturgy (led by teachers/pupils)
- Friday – Whole-school Celebration and Prayer Assembly (led by Headteacher/Deputy)

Worship also takes place outdoors and in St John Fisher Church. Each class leads a liturgy during the year to which parents and families are invited.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." (Psalm 96:1)

Liturgical Life

The liturgical life of our school mirrors the Church's calendar. Mass is celebrated at the beginning and end of each term, on Holy Days of Obligation, and for key feast days. Pupils attend parish Masses and take part in school liturgies during Advent, Lent, Ash Wednesday, and the Stations of the Cross. Children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are supported by the school and parish community.

Daily Prayer

Prayer is woven into the rhythm of the school day:

- Morning, Grace, and End-of-Day prayers
- Classroom prayer areas encourage quiet reflection
- Pupils write and share personal prayers
- Traditional prayers of the Church are learnt and celebrated
- Spontaneous prayer is encouraged as a natural response to God's love

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to plan, lead, and evaluate worship. This enables them to take ownership of their spiritual formation and develop confidence in leading prayer. Older pupils model reverence and participation, mentoring younger children in leading liturgy.

Planning and Resources

All acts of worship are planned using the Gather–Listen–Respond–Go Forth format. Themes are drawn from the Liturgical Year, Scripture, and Catholic Social Teaching. The RE and Catholic Life Leader supports staff with resources, guidance, and professional development to ensure high-quality experiences of prayer.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105)

4. Impact

Through prayer and liturgy, pupils encounter Christ and grow in understanding of their faith. Worship strengthens our community, inspires compassion, and helps all to live out Gospel values in daily life.

- Deepen pupils' relationship with God and understanding of faith.
- Foster reverence, gratitude, and joy in worship.
- Strengthen belonging to the Catholic community.
- Enable pupils to live out Gospel values through action and reflection.
- Enhance links between home, school, and parish faith life.

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

Impact is monitored through observation, pupil voice, staff reflection, and governor oversight. Feedback informs future planning and professional development, ensuring continuous improvement.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher – Ensures Prayer and Liturgy are central to school life.
- RE and Catholic Life Leader – Leads and monitors the quality of worship.
- Staff – Plan and deliver inclusive, high-quality worship.
- Pupils – Prepare, lead, and reflect on acts of worship.
- Parish Priest – Provides pastoral and sacramental support.
- Governors – Evaluate impact on Catholic Life and faith development.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE and Catholic Life Leader monitors the quality, participation, and spiritual impact of Prayer and Liturgy. Evaluations focus on inclusivity, engagement, and faith formation. Outcomes are reported to governors and shared with staff and parish representatives.

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

7. Review and Links

Linked Policies: RE Policy, Catholic Life Policy, Mission Statement

Reviewed by: RE and Catholic Life Leader

Approved by: Governing Body

Next Review: September 2027

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

At St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Prayer and Liturgy are the heartbeat of our Catholic Life. Through daily opportunities for prayer, reflection, and celebration, we nurture faith, hope, and love in every member of our community.

“With God’s Love, we are a Family, Caring, Learning and Growing Together.”

