



## ***Prayer and Liturgy Policy***

<b>Ratification date:</b>	November 2023
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Mrs Debbie Penny
<b>Head Teacher:</b>	Mrs Nuala Ferguson
<b>Review Date:</b>	November 2026

### ***CHRIST AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO***

*At St Anne's, we learn about God, ourselves, our church and how to pray.  
We try to be a good friend, have fun, love each other and be kind to each other.  
We want to let every child in our school have the same chance as everyone else.  
When we make mistakes, we are forgiven, and each day is a new beginning.  
We want everyone in our school to feel safe and happy.*

## **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 (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).



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

### (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 outline 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

We hold a daily act of prayer and liturgy in our school. This could be in the form of: Whole School, House or Key-Stage Assembly, Class Liturgy, Mass or Hymn Practice.

- We conduct our daily act of prayer and liturgy in a dignified and respectful way and encourage the children to participate in a thoughtful and reverent manner.
- The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups prepare and deliver assemblies. Children are also encouraged to take an active role in prayer and liturgy within the classroom under guidance of the Class Teacher.
- We take the themes of our assemblies/ class prayer from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies or class prayer reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Our weekly Celebration Assembly acknowledges and rewards children for their achievements both in and around school. They are awarded Gospel Certificates for acts in which the children have displayed gospel values in one form or another.
- We invite parents to class assemblies and performances and liturgical celebrations on a regular basis. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.



- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies or Masses at any time.

## 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, clergy 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.

Focal areas are set in up each classroom and are changed regularly to reflect changing topics. The children may be involved in the design and content of the Class Focal Area and are encouraged to make use of the area throughout the day.

Prayer Garden – Within the school grounds, the Prayer Garden offers a quiet place for individual reflection, an area for class prayer, Prayer Group and Mini Vinnie activities and services.

## 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

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

Date	Version	Notes
November 23	Draft 1	Initial draft shared with full governing Body and ratified