St Winefride's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Date policy last reviewed: 24th November 2025

Signed by:

Jennifer Davies	Headteacher	Date:	28th September 2026
Dr Mark Branch	Chair of governors	Date:	28th September 2026

ST. WINEFRIDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 24th November and will be reviewed in November 2026

Signed by the Chair of Governors : Dr Mark Branch

Signed by the Headteacher: Mrs J Davies

Welcome to St Winefride's where we come together to learn, laugh, listen, live and love in the presence of Jesus.

At our school, we believe that everyone is valued as a unique gift from God.

We work together to create an engaging learning environment, where all children are challenged to achieve their full potential.

At St Winefride's Catholic Primary school, we recognise in everyone, the dignity and beauty of the person, made in the image and likeness of God. We value each individual and respect them regardless of their background and circumstances because they are our brothers and sisters in the family of God, and we are called to love and value everyone.

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.)

1. 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 Advisor

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Daily Prayer

Monday: 10:15 Whole School Assembly based upon the Sunday Gospel. Led by Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in rotation.
Tuesday: Class based prayer.
Wednesday: Class based Prayer.
Thursday: Class based Prayer. Whole School hymn singing 10:15am.
Friday: Regular SHINE assembly for classes in rotation 9:05am. 3pm Whole School Celebration of the Word, led by teachers in rotation.

Class Prayer

Each classroom has a prayer focal point which includes a cloth in the current liturgical colour, the Bible and a candle. Other objects are added/used as appropriate.

Class Based prayer is led by pupils, supported by staff, in progression throughout school. We use OneLife Music's OPEN series during the Season of Creation, Advent, Lent and May. At other times, TenTen's Prayer and Liturgy: Loving Jesus resource is used in class. At the start of the academic year, EYFS and KS1 use TenTen's 'I Can Pray' 6-week prayer scheme to ensure fundamentals, such as prayer gestures, are secure.

Classes use a daily cycle of prayers, which are progressive throughout school. Each class pray a morning offering, a grace before meals, a grace after meals and an end of day prayer. During Advent and Lent, special prayers for these seasons are also used. Children also experience silence within their class prayer, with their teacher's understanding and guidance.

Whole School

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher take responsibility for the leading of Monday Celebrations of the Word, on a rota basis. These times of liturgical prayer are Gospel-based.

Celebration of Mass is planned for through discussion with our parish priest. Mass is celebrated both at church and in school for the whole school and for smaller groups. These take place throughout the liturgical year. Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are planned for during Advent and Lent, through discussion with our parish priest.

Regular whole school assemblies are held to celebrate significant times/dates (eg. Harvest) and other special occasions throughout the year, such as Ash Wednesday. Each class take a turn per half-term to lead a class assembly based upon the branch from the Religious Education Directory (RED)they are studying, largely inspired by their knowledge – and consequent prayerful response - from Religious Education lessons.

We have regular visits from the local 'Open the Book' group. Open the Book is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, storytelling teams use the Open the Book programme to prepare and present a 10–

15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible. This group is part of the Bible Society. We also regularly welcome a Christian drama company called The B (Bible) Tales during Anti-Bullying Week, Advent, Lent and for science week to enrich our times of prayer in school.

During Advent, whole school Celebrations of the Word are delivered daily by all teachers linked to a theme for the season. EYFS and KS1 create and perform their own nativities and KS2 prepare and lead a Carol Service in church for the community.

During Lent, each class hosts a 'Stay and Pray' time to which families, parishioners and governors are invited. The whole school also engage in walking the Stations of the Cross outdoors and Holy Week is marked with special times of prayer and liturgy, such as the celebration of Mass, lectio divina and contemplative prayer.

The Lantern

We have a designated prayer room within school to which all stakeholders have access. It is dressed in accordance with the liturgical year, and classes visit regularly to spend time in prayer and reflection. At certain times of the year, eg. During November for Remembrance, the community are invited to contribute to the prayer focus. The Lantern is used as a space for quiet prayer, group work and encounter with one others and with God.

Hymn Practices

Time spent singing is a religious experience and is marked as special. The children enjoy singing and it is a very joyful way in which to worship God. We have a shared repertoire of hymns linked to the liturgical year to support the use of varied hymns and music within prayer and liturgy.

Inclusive Provision

The whole approach to prayer and liturgy is inclusive rather than exclusive. The individual needs of every child are considered when prayer and liturgy is being planned.

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.

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.