



St Agatha's Catholic Primary School

Policy	Prayer and Liturgy Policy
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Governor Committee	CFCF
Statutory Policy	No

Prayer and Liturgy

The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies 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.)

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). 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 the 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(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.

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 person named who was responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the prayer and literature 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) Head teacher

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 leaders 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 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
- resource is to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to all 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 feedback into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the head teacher 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.

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Whole School Masses

We celebrate school Mass with our school and parish community in St Agatha's church at the regular 9.30am service throughout the year on feast days and special occasions. Children carry out roles such as reading, welcoming or carrying the offertory gifts. In this way we appreciate the contribution this faith community makes to the children's development of their own faith, practice and sense of reverence.

Year Group Masses

Years 3 - 6 lead a year-group Mass once a year at St Agatha's Church. Families and parishioners are warmly welcomed.

Class Prayer and Liturgy

Classes lead a prayer and liturgy assembly. Their families and the parish priest are warmly welcomed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We recognise that many children do not get the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation very often, so during Advent and Lent Father Francis joins the children for a Reconciliation Service and children who are eligible may celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with him or another of the priests of the parish who come to the school for this special event.

Rosary Club

Rosary club runs for a series of weeks at key points in the liturgical year. It is led by the pupil RE Leaders – they invite children to pray, set up the prayer space, lead the rosary prayers and include a procession across the playground to the prayer garden (weather permitting).

Pupil Prayer Leaders' Liturgies

The pupil RE Leaders plan and lead small group liturgies at various times throughout the year, for example on feast days.

Child Led Prayer and Liturgy

There are opportunities for children to plan and lead prayer and liturgy using a variety of resources including the children's prayer portal in TenTen.

Daily Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy)

A whole school Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) assembly is held on a Monday morning. The Headteacher leads this assembly and uses TenTen as a key resource for teaching about the weekly Gospel.

Tuesday - Friday, children take part in daily acts of worship (prayer and liturgy), within their classrooms, using the daily TenTen resource. This is led by either the class teacher or children. Children are encouraged to lead one another in prayer. Lighting a candle, soft music, a focal point and comfortable seating help all participants to benefit from the experience of daily acts of worship.

Daily Prayers

Class prayers are said daily at the following times: morning, before lunch and at the end of the day.

There is sometimes an opportunity for quiet reflection during this time and/or an opportunity for children to make a prayer of intercession (bidding prayer).

Prayer Tables

This is a special place in the classroom where children can privately go to talk to God in their own words or enjoy a period of silence when they can listen to the Holy Spirit in their own hearts. This may be either individually or alongside others. It can be the focus for class prayer and liturgy.

The prayer table should:

- Be inviting, clean and cared for.

- Be on the child's level where he/she can touch and feel the objects placed there.
- Should reflect the church year e.g. feasts, seasons or topic in RE.
- Have cloths that reflect seasons of the church year.
- Display religious items/artefacts.

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 liturgical life of the school.

Training and Formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond so that they fully understand that 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.

Sacramental Preparation

The preparation of children for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation is undertaken by parish catechists as part of a parish programme. This involves parents, catechists, children, parish priest and school, working together as a community.

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 stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

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