

St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

‘Christ at the
Centre’



***‘God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer.’***

St. Theresa of Kolkata

This prayer and liturgy policy is based on CES model policy and has been approved and adopted by the governing body in November 2024 and will be reviewed in November 2025.

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Our School Mission Statement

“At St. Peter's we strive to be a joyful, active, Catholic community, belonging to and guided by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We deliver a high quality, rounded education, focussing not only on individual academic excellence, but on each pupil's spiritual, moral, physical and emotional development. We are a

forward looking school, continually seeking ways to build on our successes and further enhance the educational experience of our children.

Inspired by the values of Catholic Social Teaching, we provide superb pastoral care for the entire school, particularly the most vulnerable amongst us and we actively promote justice, charity and care for our created world.

As a community we aim to grow in communion with each other and with God. We aspire for every member of our school to become daily more like Jesus, filled with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, allowing them to live life to the full, in hope and joy, transforming the world around them and bearing fruit that will last.”

The School Mission Statement recognises that it is through worshipping together that we will grow as a community of faith - worshipping together is an integral expression of ourselves as a community.

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, 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 Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Our Aims in Prayer and Liturgy

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision Prayer reflects a personal relationship with God. At St Peter's, we assist pupils to explore a variety of methods from private prayer to spontaneous prayer as well as group prayer in both formal and informal settings.

During times of prayer, it is important to:

- affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school as set out in the School Mission Statement;
- help the child become familiar with the traditional forms of worship in the Catholic Church;
- Instil in pupils a sense of reverence;
- experience belonging to a worshipping community of faith;
- provide opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God;
- encourage a sense of awe and wonder for God's creation;
- give pupils an understanding of the value of prayer, and its importance in the Christian faith and other religions;
- support the children to lead (age & stage appropriate) a meaningful experience.

(a) Prayer

Fixed Prayer Times	EYFS	KS1	KS2
Morning	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
Midday	Grace Before Meals	Grace Before Meals and Hail Mary	Grace Before Meals and Hail Holy Queen/ The Angelus
Afternoon	End of the Day Prayer of Thanks	End of the Day Prayer of Thanks	End of the Day Prayer of Thanks

Children's Intentions and Spontaneous Prayer

Children are provided with opportunities to share spontaneous prayer. In Key Stage One, spontaneous prayer may involve aspects of teaspoon prayers and five finger prayers. In Key Stage Two the opportunities involve popcorn prayer, morning prayers of hope and inviting individuals to share a prayer of the day.

Other Forms of Prayer

- The Lunchtime Rosary - prayed during October and May to honour our Lady
- Prayer in meetings - every staff and governor meeting begins with a prayer. The children also begin their meetings with a prayer - School Council Meetings, Mission Ambassadors' Meetings

(b) Celebration of the Word

The prayer & liturgy co-ordinator will plan and share the chaplaincy calendar each term. This details the rhythm of liturgy and celebration of the word across the academic year, reflecting the liturgical year and celebrations unique to the school.

Celebration of the Word in our school may follow this structure or a variation of this structure:

- Gathering - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc.);
- Word - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;
- Action - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc.);
- Mission - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

It may also include some of the following:

- a visual focus;
- poetry or prose;
- music
- prayer
- a psalm
- dance
- drama
- outdoor prayer

Below is an outline of worship which takes place in the school within a typical week.

A Typical Week	
Monday	Celebration of the Word Whole School Theme: Sunday Gospel, ministered by the headteacher
Tuesday	Prayer Through Song and Hymn practice Whole school Led by Mrs Postlethwaite
Wednesday	Class Celebration of the Word Theme: Liturgical Year, ministered by Pupil Prayer Leaders and class teachers
Thursday	Celebration of the Word Whole School Theme: Faith in Action/School Vision and Values, ministered by rotation of teachers in KS1/2
Friday	Class and Teacher Assembly Whole School Theme: Varied- general reflection on learning across the curriculum and from God Matters, ending in prayer, led by class teachers and children

Other forms of Celebration of the Word

- Advent Service - ministered by our KS2 children for family, friends, and parishioners in our parish church every Advent
- Remembrance Service - ministered by History leader for our school community in November
 - Burning of Palms- ministered by Parish Priest in the Prayer Garden
- Stations of the Cross - ministered by our KS2 children for the rest of the school.

Lay Liturgical Ministers -Children

The principles of active and conscious participation are important during all liturgy, liturgical prayer, and prayer opportunities provided for and celebrated with children. Everyone at St. Peter's is invited to participate spiritually and prayerfully. Silence also has an important place and value in enabling participation.

Children are supported to take up different ministry roles during liturgy, liturgical prayer, and prayer:

- Altar Servers
- Solo and group singing
- Playing a musical instrument in worship band
- Reading scripture passages or a reflection
- Leading us in prayer
- Lighting the candles
- Pupil Prayer Leaders plan, prepare, and lead liturgical prayer for their class.

(c) Liturgy

	Holy Days of Obligation	Feasts, Solemnities and Special Occasions		Holy Days of Obligation	Feasts, Solemnities and Special Occasions

September		Welcome Mass	March		Reconciliation & Ash Wednesday
October		Harvest Mass	April		Stations of the Cross and Holy Week Liturgy
November	All Saints		May	Ascension	Corpus Christi
December		Nativity of Our Lord, Advent & Reconciliation	June	St Peter and St Paul	
January	Epiphany		July		Leavers' Mass
February			August		

Holy Days of Obligation

When a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a school day, Mass is celebrated in school. The timetable is paused as all pupils and staff come together to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist. Parents and parishioners are invited to join our school community. Some Holy Days of Obligation do not fall on a school day so alternative arrangements are made to ensure these days are marked within the academic calendar.

Mass in the Parish

Children across the school join in celebrating the Eucharist once every term at Parish Masses in St. Stephen's and St. Peter's.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated twice a year in school; at the beginning of Advent and the beginning of Lent. All KS2 pupils will participate in the reconciliation service which is then followed by confessions being heard by the Parish Priest and a visiting priest.

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.