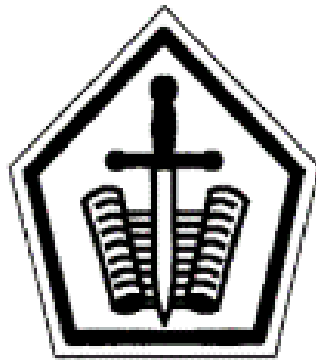


St Paul's Catholic Nursery and Primary School




Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Our school is a place of learning, a place of love.

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 24th January 2024 and will be reviewed January 2025

Signature  Date24.1.2024...

Head Teacher

Signature  Date24.1.2024...

Written: 5th January 2024

Agreed by Governors: 24th January 2024

Next review: January 2025

Our school is a place of learning, a place of love.

1. Introduction and the context of this prayer and liturgy policy

St Paul's Catholic Nursery and Primary School our Catholic School mission is that we are '*a place of learning and a place of love*'. We believe that at St Paul's, Prayer and Liturgy is integral to developing the children's relationship with Christ. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre. Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life.

At St Paul's, we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church. Children take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. We believe worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives. It celebrates his presence amongst us today and allows children and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him.

In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, assemblies, meditation and liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the children to develop their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

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We believe the heart of Christian worship

Through him, with him and in him,

O God, almighty Father,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour is yours,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

2. Statement of requirement

This policy has been written within the guidelines of The Prayer & Liturgy Directory for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges in England and Wales

<https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PLD.pdf>

‘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.)

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

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- 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 and 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.

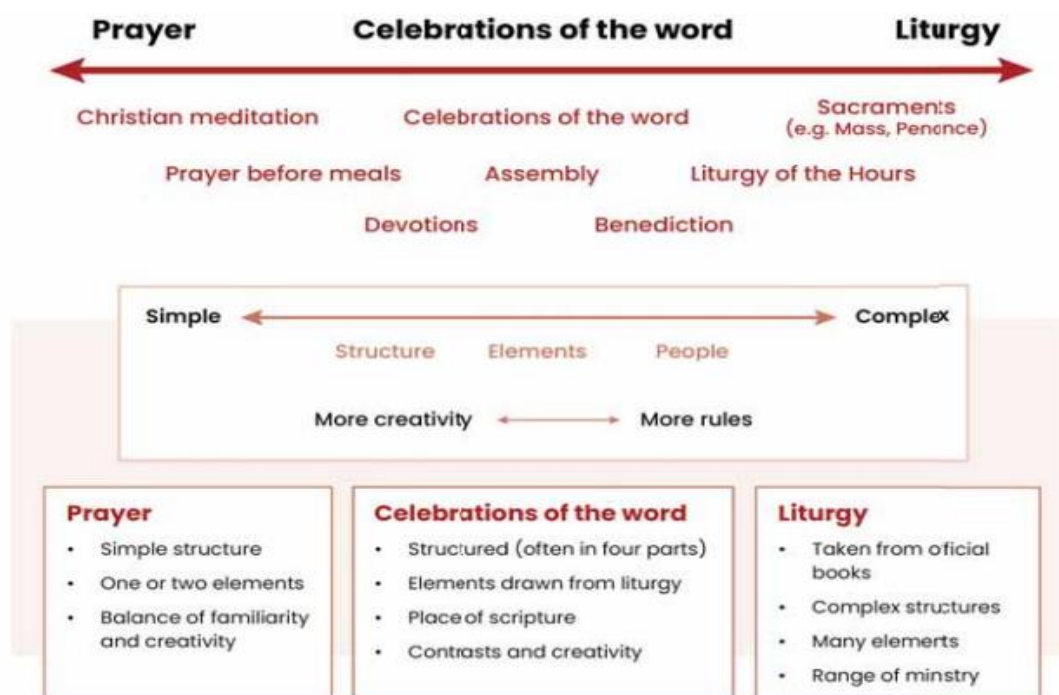
4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

In our Catholic School there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, and celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character, dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration, and its content.

Staff and pupils are invited to recognise God's action in their lives and the life of the school, and in response to express together their needs and those of the whole human family, and to offer thanks for all that is good. Communal celebrations, prayer takes and liturgy takes place,

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for example, as below, at the beginning or end of the school day, in the classroom, or at a staff meeting.



Principles All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will: - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience; - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2); - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

School Celebrations / Assembly Rota

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location and time</u>	<u>Who will be present</u>	<u>Delivered by</u>
Monday	9:00 am - School hall	Whole school and all staff	Headteacher
Tuesday	10:15 am - School hall	(Key Stage) linked to Gospel reading (gather, word, reflect, mission)	KS class teachers
Wednesday	9:00 am - School hall	Catholic social teaching principle / our school mission statement and Saint Paul	Class assembly on a rota led by children and class teacher

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Thursday	8:30 am Choir Practice in School hall	Whole school Hymn Practice	Choir leader and class teachers
	9:00 am -School hall – Hymn Practice		
Friday	11:30 am - School hall	Whole school celebration assembly. All school and staff	Assistant Headteacher
	14:45 pm – in class	Pastoral time – whole school theme	Class teachers & children

Prayer, Liturgical Retreats and links with our Local Parish

During special times, such as, Advent, Lent and Holy Days, the school holds Mass in School and this is open for voluntary prayer and worship for children, parents and parishioners. In addition, classes attend Mass, once a term at our local parish 'St Paul's Church'. We timetable retreat times through the year in school, linking and working with our local Catholic Diocese schools. We also invite key speakers in to school and hold workshops for our children in order to develop further understanding of religion.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, etc

Whole School Prayer Phase

At St Paul's Catholic Nursery and Primary School we remain committed to following the guidelines and Prayer Phase taken from 'The Prayer & Liturgy Directory for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges in England and Wales' 2003

<https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PLD.pdf>

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9.5 Common prayers

This list is introduced in section 7.10 ('Common prayers').

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)	11–14 (KS3)
Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sign of the Cross• The Lord's Prayer• Hail Mary• Glory be• Grace before meals• Grace after meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Apostles' Creed• An Act of Contrition• Angel of God• Come, Holy Spirit• The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Offering• The Rosary• The Magnificat• Act of Faith• Act of Hope• Act of Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Benedictus• The Angelus• Hail Holy Queen• The Memorare• Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you• Eternal Rest

These prayers are referred to often and given a special time for reflection during our school's weekly Pastoral sessions.

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to our 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 eg. our indoors 'Prayer Cove' and outside 'Prayer Garden' 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.

Each class has an RE box with artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set of text books and age appropriate Bibles. Other resources are available in central store and Chapel, including:

- Posters
- Candles / Rosaries / other artefacts
- CAFOD / CST materials
- Bibles
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics

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

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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.