

GUARDIAN ANGELS' RCPS PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Policy approved by: Governors	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed: January 2025	
Next review: September 2027	

Mission Statement

We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to love, learn and grow.

In order that we might have life in all its fullness, our school family will:

Follow Jesus' example of loving God with all our heart, loving others as Jesus loves us and reaching out to those in need **(Catholic Life and Mission)**

Learn about the life of Jesus and know Him through the teaching and modelling of the Gospel Values **(Religious Education)**

Grow in Faith through worshipping, talking and listening to God to strengthen our relationship with Him. **(Prayer and Liturgy)**

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.)

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 1988, 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 1988, s.71(1A)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures for 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 time for Religious Education.

Responsibility

Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have the 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.

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

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy will 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 a 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 of future liturgies
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing board 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

The Annual Plan of Provision details the dates, places and persons responsible for the prayer and liturgy provision each year.

Below is a summary of the provision:

Prayer: Morning prayer, Grace before meals, Grace after meals, Prayers at the end of the day are said daily by the whole school led by Prayer leaders and staff.

Stations of the Cross during Lent – whole school.

Weekly Rosary led by the GIFT team at lunchtime.

Whole school Rosary in the months of October and May.

Celebration of the word:

Monday - Assembly led by a member of SLT / Gift Team / Class led

During Advent and Lent, classes lead prayer and liturgy each week and invite the school community to join them

Tuesday - Class prayer and liturgy led by different groups of children

Wednesday – Wednesday Word led by the GIFT Team

Thursday - Praise Assembly led by the RE / Music lead

Friday - Celebration Assembly led by a member of SLT

Stay and Pray sessions are timetabled throughout the year where classes invite their families to join them in prayer and liturgy.

Liturgy: We have whole school Masses throughout the school year including at the start of the new school year, during Advent and at the end of the school year.

Our schools celebrate their Feast days through a special Mass and Holy Days.

Class Mass is celebrated in church throughout the year.

Masses are celebrated either in school, in Church or online with the whole Parish community.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated with the Year 3 children in preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

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.

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-school 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.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating 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.

Review

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