

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Reviewed	Chaplain
Approved By	James Mc Nulty
Next Review Date	September 2027

St Paul's Catholic College



Mission Statement

St Paul's is a community of faith, echoing St Paul's letter to Timothy where - as pillars of Christian living - he stresses "love, service and doing the best possible."

Rooted in Catholic tradition, our school is dedicated to faith formation, ensuring Christ is at the centre of our community and our learning.

We develop students' full potential so that they can achieve excellence and learn to serve, living out Catholic Social Teachings.

Achieving Excellence, Learning to Serve



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; 70 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 chaplain.
- 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 (chaplain)
- 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 (chaplain)

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

See appendix 1 for overview of prayer and liturgy provision.

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.

Appendix 1:

		Catholic Life at St Paul's	
Year Group	Access to Prayer and Liturgy	Formation Through Prayer and Liturgy	Formation Progression
Year 7	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary formation lesson; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer.	Pupils are introduced to the school's Catholic identity, mission and values. Formation focuses on learning how Catholics pray, understanding the structure and purpose of liturgy, developing familiarity with Scripture and Catholic tradition, and recognising prayer as a personal encounter with Christ. Sixth Form partnerships during the Welcome Back Mass model discipleship and belonging within the faith community.	Pupils are introduced to the Catholic life of the school through regular prayer, liturgy and Mass. Formation focuses on belonging, understanding how Catholics pray, becoming familiar with Scripture, liturgical seasons and traditions such as the Rosary, and recognising prayer as an encounter with Christ. Catholic Social Teaching.
Year 8	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer. Continued participation in all whole-school liturgies, Masses, retreats, reconciliation opportunities and daily prayer. Increasing involvement in assemblies and Celebrations of the Word.	Pupils deepen their understanding of Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the liturgical year. Formation develops their confidence in communal prayer while encouraging reflection on how faith influences relationships, values and service to others.	Pupils deepen their understanding of Catholic teaching and the liturgical year. Through reflection on Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and school values, they begin to appreciate how faith shapes daily life, relationships and service of others. Developed further in Celebrations of the Word in Assemblies.
Year 9	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer. Full participation in daily prayer, year group retreat, sacramental opportunities, Masses and Celebrations of the Word. Greater opportunities to assist in planning and leading prayer.	Formation encourages pupils to take greater ownership of their faith journey. Through planning and leadership opportunities, they begin to understand their vocation as active participants within the Church, developing confidence in proclaiming Scripture and leading others in prayer.	Pupils increasingly take ownership of their faith journey. Many undertake sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Formation develops confidence in active participation and continues opportunities to contribute to the planning and leadership of prayer and liturgy, fostering a sense of vocation and discipleship.

Year 10	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer. Participation in all liturgical celebrations and retreats, with increasing opportunities to contribute to preparation and delivery. Social justice and charity assemblies linked to CST.	Pupils explore the relationship between faith and action. Formation emphasises discipleship, moral responsibility and service, helping pupils connect Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching with contemporary issues and their own decision-making.	Pupils further explore the connection between faith and action. Through prayer, liturgy and social justice initiatives, they develop a deeper understanding of Gospel values, moral responsibility and their call to serve the common good. Actively engage and lead in charity weeks and drives particularly in the season of Lent. Lead the Green Card initiative in school.
Year 11	Daily prayer; Exam Celebration of the Word; Year Group Masses; Retreat experiences; Reconciliation; All major liturgical celebrations. Significant involvement in preparing and leading liturgy; mentoring younger pupils.	Formation supports pupils through examination pressures by encouraging trust in God, resilience and discernment. Opportunities to lead prayer enable pupils to witness to their faith and recognise prayer and the sacraments as sources of strength and hope.	Formation supports pupils during a significant stage of personal and academic development. Prayer and liturgy provide opportunities for reflection, resilience and trust in God, while leadership opportunities encourage pupils to witness to their faith within the school community.
Year 12	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer. Full participation in the liturgical life of the school; Retreat programme; Chaplaincy and student leadership opportunities; Support of Year 7 transition and Welcome Back Mass.	Formation develops pupils as faith leaders and role models. They are encouraged to reflect critically on their faith, deepen their understanding of Catholic teaching and accompany younger pupils on their spiritual journey. Leadership opportunities foster responsibility for the prayer life of the wider community.	Pupils begin to take on significant leadership responsibilities within the prayer life of the school. Formation focuses on accompaniment, service and faith leadership as they support younger pupils and contribute to the planning and delivery of charitable work like OAP party, the Baby Basics drive, voluntary work across the school.

Year 13	Daily tutor prayer; Prayer before RE lessons; Welcome Back Mass (with Sixth Form); Year Group Retreat; Assemblies/Celebrations of the Word; Harvest Celebration; Rosary; All Saints Mass; Mass of the Faithful Departed; Advent Celebration of the Word; Epiphany Mass; Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word; Stations of the Cross; Day of Reconciliation; Holy Week Celebration of the Word; Ascension Mass; Feast Day Mass; Quiet chapel prayer. Full participation in all prayer and liturgical opportunities; Retreats; Chaplaincy leadership; Leavers' Celebration of the Word.	Formation culminates in pupils exercising mature leadership and missionary discipleship. They demonstrate confidence in planning, preparing and leading prayer and liturgy, articulating the relevance of faith in their lives and preparing to live out the Gospel beyond St Paul's through service, witness and vocation	Formation culminates in mature faith leadership and missionary discipleship. Pupils confidently lead prayer and liturgy, mentor younger pupils and reflect on how they are called to live out the Gospel beyond St Paul's through service, witness and vocation.
Chaplaincy Team	Pupils voluntarily join the Chaplaincy Team from Year 7 onwards. Members participate in and support the prayer and liturgical life of the school through preparing and delivering Celebrations of the Word, reading at Masses, serving at liturgical celebrations, creating prayer resources and multimedia content for key liturgical seasons, promoting prayer initiatives such as the Rosary, supporting the care and preparation of the chapel, learning about altar serving, and participating in the celebration of major feasts and seasons of the Church's year.	Formation progresses from participation to leadership. In Years 7-8, pupils learn about the Church's liturgical life, the role of prayer, the meaning of key feasts and seasons, and how to serve the worshipping community. In Year 9, pupils take greater responsibility for preparing and leading prayer and liturgy, developing confidence in proclaiming Scripture and leading others in worship. By Years 10-11, pupils become role models, mentoring younger Chaplaincy Team members, supporting retreats, helping to form younger pupils in prayer and liturgy, and taking responsibility for the preparation of significant liturgical celebrations. In Years 12-13, pupils exercise mature faith leadership by planning, coordinating and leading worship, accompanying younger pupils in their spiritual development, and witnessing to the Gospel through service. Opportunities to Eucharistic Minister as well as lead planning of Charitable causes like Baby Basics. And Bible club.	The Chaplaincy Team provides a clear pathway of progressive faith formation and leadership. Pupils begin in Year 7 as participants, learning about the liturgical year, key feasts, prayer traditions and service. As they mature, they contribute to the creation of prayer resources, assemblies and liturgies, prepare readings and assist in acts of worship. Pupils develop and exercise leadership through mentoring younger pupils, supporting retreat programmes and helping to lead celebrations. Chaplaincy Team pupils become authentic faith leaders who plan, prepare and deliver prayer and liturgy, care for the chapel environment, support altar serving and accompany pupils in their spiritual development. Through this journey, pupils develop as participants in prayer as well as leaders of worship and missionary disciples.