

ST AGNES

Catholic Primary School

With Jesus beside us, we do our best



Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2024

Created on:	September 2024	Author: C Manning
Approved by:	Standards Committee	Date: November 2024
Last reviewed on:	November 2024	By: Standards Committee
Next review due by:	November 2025	By: Standards Committee

Our Vision and Values

At St. Agnes we believe that although we are all very different we have a way of living, behaving and doing things that allow us to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our school motto is: **With Jesus Beside Us We Do Our Best to:**

Believe

We are all valued in God's family and the school family. We **believe** in ourselves and in our abilities.

Persevere

When things get difficult, we will **persevere** so that we will grow stronger, realising we can turn to each other and God.

Contribute

We will **contribute** to the life of the school, the parish, the local community and the wider world to which we all belong.

By doing these we will:

Achieve

By being the best we can be, we will **achieve** in making a difference to others and living as God would want us to.



***With Jesus beside us we do our best to
Believe, persevere and contribute so we can
achieve***

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 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy 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
- Fr Howard, our parish priest and RE link governor) 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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Good News Assembly	Singing AOW (<i>act of worship</i>)	Class AOW-led by class chaplains/teacher	Hoop assembly	Liturgical service

It will also include when Mass is celebrated across the year, when there are opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and when there are special liturgies. This section of the policy is similar to but less detailed than the Annual Plan of Provision. The Annual Plan of Provision will include, for example, dates, who is responsible, and much more detail.

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. **The glossary ensures that there is a shared understanding of key terminology amongst teachers. (See appendix 1)**

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

Glossary

Absolution = In the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) the Church, through its bishops and priests, forgives sins in the name of Jesus Christ, healing the sinner and re-establishing them in communion with the Church.

Adoration = a type of prayer expressing the worship of God and the main part of the rite of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Altar = the altar, on which is effected the sacrifice of the cross made present under sacramental signs, is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God are convoked to participate in the Mass, and it is also the centre of the thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist.

Ambo = The ambo is a type of pulpit or lectern from which the word of God is proclaimed. The dignity of the word of God requires there to be a suitable place from which it may be proclaimed and towards which the attention of the faithful naturally turns during the liturgy of the word.

Blessed Sacrament = The term expresses our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine after the consecration at Mass. It usually refers to the reserved consecrated hosts, which are kept in the tabernacle and are a fruit of the celebration of Mass

Canticle = An Old or New Testament text which is similar to a psalm, poetic and in the liturgy intended to be sung.

Catechumen = An unbaptised person over the age of seven who seeks to become a member of the church through the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Celebration of the word = Celebrations which are created for the school community and not directly taken from the liturgical books of the Church. They include assemblies, carol services, and include the proclamation of scripture.

Consecration = To make holy or to set apart. This is frequently used to refer to the particular consecration of the gifts of bread and wine in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Devotion = Traditional forms of Catholic Prayer, such as the Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

Eucharist = Derived from the Greek word "to give thanks" it can refer to the consecrated bread and wine as well as the whole of Mass

Eucharistic Prayer = A long prayer text, made up of a number of elements, at the centre of the Mass. It is a prayer of thanksgiving, during which the gifts of bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Exposition = The rite in which the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar for worship.

Genuflect = A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration, and therefore it is normally reserved for the Blessed Sacrament.

Holydays of Obligation = Within the cycle of the year the Church recognises that some holydays have such an importance that the Church 'obliges' all Catholics not only to celebrate them with Mass but also to mark them with joy and due relaxation of mind and body.

Holy Communion = The reception of Christ's Body and Blood under the form of the consecrated bread and wine.

Intercession = The articulation in prayer of needs and desires. They form part of the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.

Host = The disc of unleavened bread that is used in the celebration of Mass, and may afterwards be reserved in the tabernacle.

Lectionary = The book from which the readings in the liturgy of the word are proclaimed at Mass and other celebrations.

Liturgical action = What is done during a section or part of the liturgy, such as the preparation of the gifts.

Liturgical year = The annual cycle of the Church's liturgical year is centred on Christ and, in particular, on how he has made salvation possible for us. The year is, then, a sequence of seasons which brings into focus the various aspects of the one mystery of salvation in Christ, who is present in his Church.

Liturgy = The most familiar forms of the liturgy celebrated in school are the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The liturgical books, such as the Roman Missal and the Lectionary, set out the structure to be followed, the words to be spoken, the gestures to be performed, and the symbols to be used when celebrating a liturgy. Other liturgies in school may include the celebration of part of the liturgy of the Hours such as Morning Prayers and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Liturgy of the Eucharist = The second main part of the Mass. It begins with the preparation of the gifts, then centres on the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, which leads to the Communion Rite, where all pray the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) and Holy Communion is distributed.

Liturgy of the word = The first main part of the Mass, which consists of readings from scripture leading to the proclamation of the Gospel. The homily and the Prayer of the Faithful, which flow from the scriptures, conclude the liturgy of the word.

Martyr = A Saint who died for their faith

Meditation = The practice of silence and still consciousness of the presence of God has long formed a part of the Christian tradition of prayer. It differs from mindfulness in its inherent focus on Christ (often expressed through the use of icons or other images) and openness to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Mass = Also known as the celebration of the Eucharist, this is the most important action of the Church and from its celebration, the life of the Church flows

Minister = Those who play a particular role in the celebration of the liturgy

Paschal Mystery = The journey of Christ through his birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. 'Mystery' here does not mean something unknown, but rather something which has been revealed which we cannot wholly grasp or understand until it is completely fulfilled – this is God's plan for salvation.

Prayer = Prayer has been traditionally described as 'lifting up the hearts and minds to God', which means it involves our whole person – our head as well as our heart. This definition expresses a fundamental understanding that God is concerned and interested about what goes on in our lives, is due our expression of thanksgiving and gratitude; and responds to us when we express our needs.

Roman Missal = The liturgical book which contains the prayer texts of the celebration of Mass.

Stations of the Cross = A traditional devotion which involves meditating on scenes from the Passion and death of Christ.

Tabernacle = The secure container where the reserved, consecrated host is placed.

Triduum = From the Latin for 'three days'. The Paschal Triduum is the annual celebration of the Passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening and concludes with the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Appendix 2

We have the following for the celebration of Mass :

Fittings

- Altar
- Ambo (or lectern)
- Processional cross and/or altar cross

Books

- Roman Missal
- All volumes of the Lectionary

Vessels

- Paten: a shallow dish for holding the host(s) for the Eucharist
- Ciborium: a covered dish for storing consecrated hosts (plural ciboria)
- Chalice: a large cup for the wine for the Eucharist
- Cruets: small containers for the water and wine used in the preparation of gifts

Linen

- Altar cloths
- Corporal: a square cloth placed on the altar underneath the chalice and paten so that no fragments are discarded
- Purificator: cloth used to wipe the chalice after Communion
- Lavabo cloth: cloth used to dry the priest's hands at the preparation of gifts

Perishables

- Altar breads
- Wine
- Water
- Candles
- Matches

Items used (particularly the vessels and bread and wine) should conform to the norms set out in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Sacred objects will be stored carefully, respecting their dignity, and not used for other purposes. Arrangements will need to be made for the purification of vessels in a suitable designated area, and for the cleaning of purificators and lavabo towels etc. after the celebration.