

Prayer and
Mark's Catholic



Liturgy at St.
Primary School

Prepared by:	<i>Mrs Cathy McKenna & Dr M Keller</i>
Approved by:	<i>FGB</i>
Signature of Chair of Governors:	
Status & review cycle	Statutory Annual
Date approved:	<i>July 2025</i>
Review date:	<i>July 2026</i>

“With Jesus, live life to the full”

cf. John 10:10

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.)

At St Mark'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.

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

As a community, we have identified six core values (6Rs) that stem from our Vision and are deeply rooted in the Gospel Values. We expect all members of the school community-pupils, staff, governors, clergy- to model these.

Our values:

- Term 1. **Respect**: love, friendship, inclusion
 - o Festival: Harvest
- Term 2. **Resourcefulness**: family, kindness, community
 - o Festival: Christmas
- Term 3. **Reasoning**: justice, compassion
 - o Festival: Lent
- Term 4. **Resilience**: hope, humility
 - o Festival: Easter
- Term 5. **Responsibility**: service, honesty
 - o Festival: Pentecost
- Term 6. **Reflection**: truth, forgiveness
 - o Festival: Corpus Christi

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.

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Prayer in class R – Y6	Morning Prayer in class R – Y6	Morning Prayer in class R – Y6	Morning Prayer in class R – Y6	Morning Prayer in class R – Y6
Celebration of the Word: Whole school Led by L&P Lead/ HT/DHT Focus: Sunday’s Gospel	Celebration of the Word: EYFS&KS1 Pupil led In class prayer Focus: Liturgical year	Celebration of the Word: Praise & Sing assembly KS2 Pupil led Focus: Liturgical year	Whole school PSHE/CST assembly Focus: Liturgical year	Celebration assembly with Taizé reflection Whole school OR Class Assembly
Grace before meals in class R – Y6	Grace before meals in class R – Y6	Grace before meals in class R – Y6	Grace before meals in class R – Y6	Grace before meals in class R – Y6
End of day prayer in class R – Y6	End of day prayer in class R – Y6	End of day prayer in class R – Y6	End of day prayer in class R – Y6	End of day prayer in class R – Y6

Advent Mass 17/12/24								
Holy day of Obligation								

Special Celebrations								
	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Parents
EYFS Nativity								parents & care home & parish community
KS1 Nativity								parents & care home & parish community
KS2 The Easter Story								
St Marks Feast								
Whole school May Procession								
Corpus Christi 4/6/2026								

Special Assemblies								
	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Parents
All Saints								Year 5
St Andrews 28/11/2025								Year 1
Epiphany 9/1/2026								Year 2
St David 6/3/2026								Year 3
St Patrick 20/3/2026								LL
St George 23/4/2026								Year 4
Pentecost 24/5/2026								Year 5
SS Peter & Paul 26/6/2026								Year 6

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.