



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

September 2025



Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Introduction:

At Our Lady of Lourdes, Prayer, Liturgy, and sacramental experiences are integral to developing the pupils' relationship with Christ. The Gospel Values are embedded in all that we do, with Christ at the centre.

Prayer and Liturgy are central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity to reflect on God's Word and both celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which deepen the pupils' sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church. Pupils take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. Worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives; it celebrates His presence amongst us today and allows pupils and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him.

In our school, Prayer and Liturgy take many forms including: individual and group prayer, song, meditation and Liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the pupils to develop their relationship with God. Pupils are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well-established safeguarding procedures.

The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place either on the school premises or in Church.

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)).

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.

Responsibilities:

(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 Education Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

Inclusion and Equal opportunities:

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we ensure that Prayer and Liturgy are inclusive to all members of the school community. Pupils with SEND are supported and encouraged to participate fully in everything. The school work closely with the local Parish and community within Our Lady of Lourdes to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy in school life is shared and lived out within the community. During the academic year, all pupils engage in a World Religions education unit where they explore a variety of religions and cultures. Throughout the year, holy days and festivals from world religions are recognised within our Catholic Life Planner, providing an opportunity for pupils of other faiths to share their faith with peers.

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

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy take 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 the school may be their first and only experience of the church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Prayer and Liturgy in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

School and Parish Collaboration:

We value and continue to develop a strong partnership between school and parish life. To further sustain our links with the Parish, the leadership team and clergy meet frequently, alongside Governors to discuss the Catholic Life of the school.

The aim 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'.

Principles:

All Prayer and Liturgy is carefully formulated, regularly reviewed and fit for purpose. All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will give pupils 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, liturgical celebrations will:

- include well-chosen Scripture passages that are informed by the liturgical season
- include symbol, silence, meditation, reflection and liturgical music
- offer participants a wide range of engaging and creative experiences of the breadth and richness of the Catholic tradition
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings
- reflect and draw upon events that are prominent in the news, either at a local, national or international level, when appropriate.

School Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy:

Type	Frequency	Location	Lead
Whole School Assembly (Linked to the Gospel)	Every Thursday: 2:30 pm	School Hall	Headteacher
Celebration Assembly	Every Friday: 2:40 pm	School Hall	Headteacher
Key Stage Assembly	Fortnightly KS1 & EYFS: Mondays 2:30 pm KS2: Monday 9:00 am	School Hall	Teachers – see rota
Morning Prayer	Daily: 8:50 am	In Class	RE Council
Grace: before meals	Daily: 11:55 am	In Class	RE Council
End of Day Prayer	Daily: 3:10 pm	In Class	RE Council
Whole School Mass	Timetabled throughout the year E.g. Holy Days of obligations, Feast Days	Our Lady of Lourdes Queen of peace Church	Father Stephen
Class Mass	Week A: Reception & Year 6 Week B: Year 1 and Year 5 Week C: Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4	Our Lady of Lourdes Queen of peace Church	Father Stephen
Whole School Liturgy	Timetabled throughout the year – see APOP	School Hall	Headteacher

Child Led Liturgy	Fortnightly KS1 & EYFS: Mondays 2:30 pm KS2: Monday 9:00 am	In Class or Outside	Class Teachers and Children
Reconciliation	Lent and Advent	School Hall	Father Stephen

Whole School/Class themes:

Term	Themes
Autumn 1	Welcome Back Liturgy Season of Creation Education Sunday The Month of Mary Harvest Fair Trade Black History month
Autumn 2	Holy Souls Anti Bullying week Remembrance Season of Advent Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary The Story of Christmas
Spring 1	Epiphany Christian Unity Week Feast of the Baptism of the Lord The Holy Family World Day of Prayer for the Sick Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day
Spring 2	Season of Lent Stations of the Cross
Summer 1	Celebration of Easter Feast of the Ascension International Women's Day Mary: Mother of the Church Exploring the Rosary Mental Health Awareness
Summer 2	Pentecost Sunday Sacred Heart of Jesus St Peter and St Paul First Holy Communion Exploring Laudatio Si

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.
- Liturgies should follow the following structure: gathering, listening, responding , mission/going forth
- opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful
- Staff should refer to the RE handbook for support and guidance when planning Prayer opportunities
- In line with '*To love you more dearly*' Prayer and Liturgy directory.

Prayer and Liturgy Expectations:

- Every class to have a focal point, which has prominence in the room. The focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the Church's year. Focal points must not be untidy. Children should be involved in all aspects of the focal point.
- Daily prayers are said at the start of the day, before lunch and at the end of the day.
- Prayer should be explicitly taught following the prayer progression document.

Chaplaincy:

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary, our Chaplaincy Team is central to the spiritual life and Catholic identity of our school. Comprising Anita Philbrook, Karen Cordell, our parish priest Father Stephen and in close collaboration with our dedicated Governors, the team works tirelessly to foster a faith-filled environment for our entire school community.

The Chaplaincy Team plays a vital role in integrating Catholic teachings into every aspect of school life, from organising meaningful liturgical celebrations to supporting the spiritual development of pupils and staff. By working closely with our Governors, the team ensures that our school's mission and values are reflected in both our educational practices and our community outreach. Their combined efforts help Our Lady of Lourdes remain a place where faith, learning, and service come together to create a vibrant and nurturing environment for all.

The Chaplaincy Team provide ongoing support for the induction of new teachers and training as part of staff meetings for all staff.

CPD & Training

Staff CPD is very important so that the best outcomes for all can be attained. At Our Lady of Lourdes, we do this through:

- Staff meetings/inset time (led by a range of professionals including the Parish Priests)
- External courses run by the Diocese
- Deanery and Diocesan meetings
- TEN:TEN formation training

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Headteacher, RE Lead and Collective Worship Lead are responsible for the monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy at Our Lady of Lourdes. Within each school's monitoring calendar, other members of staff and pupils will be involved in monitoring, in addition to regular monitoring conducted by the Catholic Life and Mission Governor. Monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy forms a focus in termly Governors' meetings. Monitoring includes: reviewing prayer spaces, observing acts of prayer and worship, observing liturgy, conducting staff, parent and pupil interviews.

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture and it provides us with guidance on how we can live out our faith as followers of Christ in our local, national and global community. As head of the Church, the Pope guides us in how we can apply the scripture to our modern day lives and how the Church can respond to the challenges we face in our modern world. Pope Francis' shared his own thoughts in his recent encyclicals *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Fratelli Tutti* (2020). Each of the principles is rooted in the rhythm of the school year and Collective Worship/Prayer and Liturgy and is closely linked with our Mission Statement. CST also underpins all pupil leadership roles.