



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

*Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family we learn to use our special gifts
to love, serve and make the world a better place.*

Prayer and Liturgy Policy			
Approval		Board of Governors	
Chairperson	Rachel Cox	Headteacher	Simon Lennon
Date of last review	January 2024	Date of review	June 2026
Date of next review	June 2028	Maintenance	SSD Committee

Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'
Matthew 9:14

Context

"Our school aims to be a sign of God's presence in the world." We do this through our explicit relationships, attitudes to learning and the daily living of our faith in our own Catholic community through the school's gospel virtues, Catholic Social Teaching principles and the development of Catholic Character Education of all. In our school Prayer and Liturgy is central to all that we do, we are Corpus Christi 'One Body in Christ.' As well as an explicit Catholic Character Education programme and Religious Education teaching prayer and liturgy are at the heart of community life in Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School.

'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 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2)

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 our school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education. The allocated curriculum time for Religious Education is 10% of teaching time as we consider Religious Education to be 'the core of the core' of our curriculum.

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from prayer and liturgy
(School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A))

Roles and Responsibilities

'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; He came to serve' Mark 10:45, thereby setting an example of servant leadership which is embedded by all leaders in this school.

All stakeholders have, by virtue of agreeing to work in a Catholic school, a responsibility to uphold the Catholic ethos of the school. In accordance with the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*: 'the school has a responsibility to ensure that that Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy must be at the heart of its community life'.

Governors have, in addition to the three core functions of governing bodies, responsibility for ensuring the Catholic charism of the school reflects the Bishop's vision. Governors are a witness to the gospel and catholic social teaching in setting the vision of the school at every level

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 who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy which reflects the Catholic life and mission of the school is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- develop a knowledge and understanding of how prayer and liturgy are underpinned by

the liturgical year and monitor this

- oversee the process for reviewing and reflecting, ensuring the voice of pupils is heard
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

The RE Governor works closely with the RE leader to ensure the highest standards are maintained, that the levels and skills of participation are reflective of the age of the pupils and that there is a strategy in place to build on and develop these skills. The RE Governor has termly link visits with the RE lead and the Prayer and Liturgy lead and reports to the FGB.

The Headteacher 'is the spiritual leader of the school.' (CES) and has the primary responsibility in promoting the Catholic charism of this school. They 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*
- they work in partnership with the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator
- 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

The School Chaplain is the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator. They promote the Christ-centered ethos of the school with a special focus on the Eucharist, through providing spiritual care and guidance to pupils, staff, parents and carers. They support pupil and staff formation. The Chaplain has significant responsibility for the faith life of the school which includes promoting social justice within, in our community, and globally.

In their capacity as Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator they 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
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parish to include the organisation of a weekly whole school mass
- 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, RE governor and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- liaison with the Diocese through attendance at RE Leaders and Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator training ensures they keep updated with best practice.

The RE Leader has overall responsibility for the implementation of the catholic life and mission of the school and directs the School Chaplain and Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator in carrying out their role and responsibilities.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

An annual provision map outlining in detail prayer and liturgy for each week in the school is completed and reviewed by the Prayer and Liturgy Lead, the RE Lead and the RE Governor. This is shared with the school community.

In Catholic schools all prayer is celebrated in the Catholic tradition but the fruits of the celebration are open to people of all faiths and none, prayer is a space for all to reflect.

The school has a dedicated Chaplain to support children's spiritual and holistic development. Children are given the opportunity to experience personal, private prayer, sharing of thought and expressions, communal and spontaneous prayer within Celebration of the Word and during any relevant opportunity which presents itself during the school day.

Liturgy

Liturgy is the formal act of the Church following the rites of the Church which are prescribed.

Scripture at Liturgy should only be read by baptised Catholics. It is the belief that by asking those of another faith to read scripture then they may be asked to turn away from their faith and this would not be appropriate.

We are respectful of all faiths. The Liturgy is celebrated through the following:

- Every Wednesday morning, on special holy days and feast days the whole school gathers to celebrate Mass in the parish church. All parents and parishioners are invited to attend this weekly mass
- The school also has its own Chapel on site, which is a sacred space to support the formal act of liturgy, prayer and reflection
- The school has a specific presence at certain Corpus Christi's Parish Sunday Mass
- A multicultural mass is celebrated on our feast day
- Nominated feast days are observed, and celebrated, in addition to the Church's main feasts – Corpus Christi (the school's own feast day), Ash Wednesday, Saints' Days, Harvest and First Holy Communion and House Feast Days
- During Advent and Lent pupils receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation services are held where possible during Advent and Lent for pupils in years 3-6. All our main feeder parishes provide their own Sacramental preparation programmes for Reconciliation and Eucharist
- There is a special mass annually to celebrate First Holy Communion
- Each year there is a special Leavers Mass for Year 6 pupils, staff and parents and an End of Year mass for all staff.

Celebration of the Word

Liturgical Prayer (Celebration of the Word) follows structural patterns found in liturgy, and follows the liturgical shape of Gather, Word, Respond and Mission.

Celebration of the Word may be planned and prepared by those of other faiths and people of Good Will, that is those who do not have a professed faith and are sympathetic to the believers and their beliefs. All are invited to participate.

- In Key Stage Celebrations of the Word on each Friday and Monday (Y2-6), the readings link directly to the gospel of the following Sunday (Friday worship) and the previous Sunday (Monday worship), in this way pupils deepen their understanding threefold, of the message of the gospel. At this time all children sing the Mission Statement, are invited to welcome the bible and the candle symbolising Jesus the Light of the World (Gather) which is followed by the Word, Respond and Mission format. Moments of quiet reflection are encouraged and a spiritual atmosphere is created
- Celebration of the Word takes place in every class on a Tuesday and Thursday. The class prayer table is the focal point. Children are guided on how to plan and lead the worship in class following the steps of Gather, Word, Respond and Mission
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a regular part of the school's prayer life - this takes place in the chapel

- The whole school attends an Easter liturgical service where parents/carers and governors are invited
- Each year EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 perform a Nativity Play for all parents, staff and governors
- An annual Advent Service led by KS2 is held in the church and local community and all stakeholders are invited to attend

Prayer

Prayer takes place, for example, at the beginning or end of the school day and allows great scope for creativity with a varied focus and format and includes other prayer traditions.

Those of Other Faiths, No Faith and People of Good Will, can lead classroom prayer where their own integrity allows.

- Morning and end of day prayer plus grace before meals are part of everyday life and there is an expectation that these occur daily
- All meetings begin with a prayer/reflection
- Children are taught specific prayers which are progressive and age related in line with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory guidelines
- There is a lunchtime rosary group for Years 3-6 and a Bible story group for Year 2 to encourage pupils to develop a love for the rosary
- Informal prayer is part of the daily life of the school for both children and adults

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. The school chapel is at the heart of our school and is furnished and maintained to reflect its importance in our school. All displays and prayer tables are updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season and resources are provided for this from the budget. Staff training and formation costs are 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 are 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. There are half termly formation staff meetings for staff. Early Career Teachers and those teachers new to the Diocese receive training from the Diocese as well as being supported in school by both the RE and Prayer and Liturgy Leaders. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly. One of the three annual Governor link visits will focus on Prayer and Liturgy and include pupil voice. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the all school policies including the following:

- Catholic Life, Mission and Religious Education