



St Christopher's Catholic Primary School

*At St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, we embrace each new day and live the Jesus way through:
Caring, Learning and Inspiring'.*

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

September 2026

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This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body and will be reviewed on September 2027.

Signed by the Chair of Governors: Mrs R Byrne

Signed by the Headteacher Mrs Nicola Harrop

Mission Statement

At St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, we embrace each new day and live the Jesus way through: Caring, Learning and Inspiring'.

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.)

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). 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.

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

Here at St Christopher's, school prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are central to the life of our school and our catholic nature. These allow our pupils and staff to come together to worship God. Whilst we respect the diversity of belief in the world and are committed to the teaching of other faiths; we are dedicated to creating a school which is Christ-centred in character. We encourage the children to experience worship and liturgical celebrations in a relevant and meaningful manner. Our Prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share it.

As stated in our mission statement we are dedicated as a school to our pupils and staff being able to live each day like Jesus and this means allowing them opportunities to develop and deepen their own relationships with God through daily acts of prayer and worship.

Our aims and objectives for Prayer and liturgy

Through our prayer and liturgy, we aim to:

- Ensure that each day all pupils and staff have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection which is in lines with our shared Catholic faith and Gospel values.
- Allow our pupils to develop and deepen their own relationships with God.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Allow our pupils the opportunity to reflect upon their own personal beliefs and to respond and celebrate life.
- To ensure that strong links are made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Ensure that our Prayer and liturgy will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- That a strong moral, reflective and social ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
- That opportunities will exist throughout the year whereby our worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
- That Prayer and liturgy will contribute to our school's community cohesion and will promote children's spiritual, social, intellectual and moral development. They will allow our children to develop qualities like tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

Our strategies for Prayer and liturgy

- On some occasions the school will meet collectively to worship and, on other occasions in different groupings. Monday will be infant and junior assemblies.
- On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be led by staff and learners. These will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Pupils will have an opportunity say grace before meals and prayers of thanks at the start and end of each day.
 - Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
 - Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship dependent upon age and prayer development.
- On at least one occasion during each half term, the parents from each class will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school known as the family prayer and liturgy.
- Occasionally, visitors and guests will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.

- On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals such as. Christmas and Easter in lines with our Catholic/Christian faith.
- St Christopher's staff and governors will liaise with the Liverpool Archdiocese to keep updated with training needs and/or developing Ecumenical matters which may affect our work in this area.

Planning and content

Theme based guidance centred on Come and See topics and the liturgical calendar is provided to all teachers to aid with planning. Teachers are also encouraged to make judgements as to whether other worships may be necessary to acknowledge local, national and world events. Guidance provided by the Archdiocese of Liverpool is used to effectively plan Prayer and liturgy. This involves:

Preparation: When, where, who, what? How will the classroom be prepared? What resources will be needed?

Gather: How will the children gather? Where will the worship take place? Will there be music? How will the children settle and show that they are ready?

Listen: What scripture will be used? How does this scripture link to the theme? How will the scripture be displayed for the children to see and share together? Is time given for the children to silently reflect?

Respond: What will the children do? Will they share a prayer? Reflect? Sing a hymn? Perform some symbolic action?

Go Forth: What will the children's mission be to go away with following the word of God?

Prayers for each age phase: The list can be found in section 7 of the Common Prayers

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	• The Sign of the Cross • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory be • Grace before meals • Grace after meals	• The Apostles' Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	• Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love

Outcomes of Prayer and liturgy

That the children of St Christopher's will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities. Through Prayer and liturgy learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder. Each day the spiritual aim of our

mission statement will be delivered through Prayer and liturgy so that the children experience first-hand examples to live like Jesus.

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.

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.

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.

Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.