

St George's Catholic School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

At St George's Catholic School we help all our children to grow in MIND, BODY and SPIRIT.

MISSION STATEMENT

The school aims:

- * To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, educating pupils harmoniously in mind, body and spirit, and placing the teachings of Jesus at the heart of all we do. We encourage staff and pupils to live out their faith, embodying the gospel values and cultivating a sense of social responsibility. 'We ask God for the courage to put on faith, hope and love as we go out into the world and become the Word in body as well as spirit.'
- Pope Francis**
- * To make prayer, worship and liturgy real spiritual and educational experiences and to contribute successfully to the development of the faith of each individual in the school community.
 - * To provide an environment in which children can grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, knowledge, attitudes and values for life.
 - * To participate in and encourage interaction between the home, parish and school. We believe that it is important that common aims be established and developed in a climate of mutual trust and openness. Home, parish and school must together provide preparation for the pupil's entry into the wider community.
 - * To develop within each child a respect for themselves and their achievements and a respect and understanding of others.

Policy and Practice

Implementation and Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher, RE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff.

Last Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review date: February 2028

1. Context 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; 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,

- 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. Preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
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4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Daily Planning

Please refer to the school's Prayer Progression Document for a list of prayers used and known by children across the year groups. All pupils will say a morning, lunchtime and afternoon prayer in class. Opportunity will be given for personal daily prayer in class. Child Led Prayer will take place in classes. A prayer space will be provided in school for personal prayer outside of the classroom throughout the school day (prayer garden / prayer area). Prayer Progression booklets will be used in class to lead prayers and links will be made to this booklet as prayers arise in teaching. Extra time for praying the Rosary will be organised during May and October. A whole school prayer book will ensure that pupils can share their own prayers in daily acts of worship in school.

Short Term Planning

Day	Prayer and Celebration of the Word
Monday	Gospel Celebration of the Word
Tuesday	Class Celebration of the Word – Child Led Prayer
Wednesday	Musical Celebration of the Word/Class Celebration of the Word
Thursday	Key Stage Celebration of the Word with link to

	Catholic Social Teaching
Friday	Celebration Assembly with school prayers

Long Term Planning - Annual Plan

The school diary will contain dates set by The Head teacher and The Parish Priest for the year. Please see the St George's School Liturgical Plan for the dates appropriate to the current academic year. A whole school Mass will be celebrated in church at the start and end of each term. Each class will lead a Mass in church at least twice a year. The school will celebrate a Harvest Mass either in school or in church each year. The school will host a Nativity Play and a Carol Service during Advent. The Advent Wreath will be used as an act of devotion throughout Advent during assemblies. There will be a crib scene present in the school hall during Advent. Holy Days of Obligation will be observed when falling within the school calendar:

The Feast of the Epiphany (6th January)

Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Saints Peter and Paul (29th June)

All Saints (1st November)

An Ash Wednesday service will be attended when falling within the school calendar.

Penitential Services will be hosted in school at the start of Lent and Advent.

A Stations of the Cross Service will take place in school during Lent.

A St George's Day Service will be celebrated in church on April 23rd if this falls on a school day.

The school will lead a Marian Procession in May which will culminate in a service in church.

Every year a month will be devoted to praying The Rosary.

An annual Pilgrimage or Reflection Day will constitute as an act of devotion. This may be undertaken by staff or pupils.

School Chaplains will be commissioned in a church service each year.

Class 6 will attend the Leavers' Mass in Clifton at the end of the academic year.

A leaver's Mass will be held at the end of the academic year in school.

Extra events will be planned to reflect changing situations within the school and the wider community such as: The Jubilee Year of Hope, Little Way Week, International Day of Peace etc.

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.