



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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Mission Statement

As stated in our school's Mission Statement, our 3 aims are to:

- Have a sense of responsibility and take an active part in serving our world;
- Have a growing understanding of Gospel Values and gather together in prayer and Worship;
- Have a passion for learning and an enjoyment for discovery

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The staff of St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School will work to give each child the entitlement of a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum (irrespective of ability) encouraging in every individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. All teaching and learning is underpinned by the school mission statement.

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(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.

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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

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we are deeply committed to nurturing the spiritual development of every child through a rich and diverse programme of prayer and liturgical celebration. Our provision is

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guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and our mission to grow together as a family that pray and learn. To ensure a meaningful and inclusive approach to worship and prayer, the school is committed to:

- Fulfilling its statutory obligations with regard to daily acts of collective worship, in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Education Service and the Diocese.
- Providing a variety of prayer and liturgical experiences that are developmentally appropriate, allowing children to encounter and participate in worship in ways that are meaningful to their age and stage of faith.
- Developing a shared repertoire of traditional and contemporary prayers and liturgical music, enabling pupils to engage in communal worship with confidence and reverence.
- Encouraging progressive pupil participation, ensuring that as children grow, they take increasing responsibility for planning, leading, and reflecting upon prayer and liturgical celebrations.
- Prioritising the celebration of the Eucharist, particularly on Holy Days of Obligation and other significant dates in the Church's and school's liturgical calendar, fostering a deep reverence for the Mass as the source and summit of Catholic life.
- Promoting the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a vital part of the liturgical year, especially during Advent and Lent, providing opportunities for children to encounter God's mercy and forgiveness.

Through this policy, St Oswald's seeks to create a prayerful, reflective, and vibrant worshipping community, where Christ is at the centre of all we do.

Prayer is at the heart of our daily life in school. Each class begins and ends the day with prayer, alongside moments of grace before and after meals. These times of prayer are peaceful and reflective, offering pupils and staff the opportunity to enter into conversation with God. Through daily prayer, we:

- Give thanks for the blessings in our lives.
- Say sorry and seek forgiveness.
- Ask for help and guidance for ourselves, our families, and all those in need—both in our local community and around the world.

These regular moments of prayer nurture our spiritual growth, strengthen our sense of community, and help us to live out the values of the Gospel each day.

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Nursery</u>	Foundation staff conduct their own prayer and liturgy within their own setting, however, when staff feel appropriate they are invited to worship with the rest of the school to help with transition.				
<u>Reception (Park Class)</u>	Whole School Worship (Led by Mr Owens)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Miss Fillingham)	Wednesday Word (Led by Mrs Atherton)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Miss Fillingham)	Whole School Assembly (Led by Mr Owens)
<u>Year 1/2 (Chisnall Class)</u>	Whole School Worship (Led by Mr Owens)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Mrs Winstanley)	Wednesday Word (Led by Mrs Atherton)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Mrs Winstanley)	Whole School Assembly (Led by Mr Owens)
<u>Year 3/4 (Blainscough Class)</u>	Whole School Worship (Led by Mr Owens)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Miss Grainger)	Wednesday Word (Led by Mrs Atherton)	Celebration of the Word- (Mark 10 Mission)	Whole School Assembly (Led by Mr Owens)
<u>Year 5/6 (Ellerbeck Class)</u>	Whole School Worship (Led by Mr Owens)	Celebration of the Word (Led by Mrs Atherton)	Wednesday Word (Led by Mrs Atherton)	Celebration of the Word- (Mark 10 Mission)	Whole School Assembly (Led by Mr Owens)

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*Parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Prayer and Liturgy.

The following structure is usually followed for Celebration of the Word:

- Gather
- Listen
- Respond
- Go Forth

Prayer and liturgy in our school is rooted in the rhythm of the Church's liturgical calendar. Themes are carefully chosen to reflect the liturgical seasons, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Ordinary Time. These themes guide the spiritual focus of our collective worship and classroom prayer life throughout the year.

In addition to the liturgical seasons, other key moments in the school year are marked with prayer and liturgy. These include, but are not limited to:

- The beginning and end of the academic year
- Feast days of our school's patron saints
- Significant Holy Days of Obligation
- Special Marian devotions, such as the Rosary in October and May
- Remembrance Day
- Key national or local events in the life of the Church
- Class or year group-led liturgies and assemblies
- Staff prayer and reflection gatherings
- Sacramental preparation milestones (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion)
- Times of mourning or celebration within the school community

These moments provide valuable opportunities for the school community to come together in prayer, deepen our understanding of the faith, and live out our Gospel values in unity.

Parish and Liturgical Celebrations

- Each class attends Mass at St Oswald's parish once every half term (6 times a year), joining the parish community in prayer and celebration. The children prepare bidding prayers, hymns, read scripture and take up the offertory.
- During Lent, the Whole School prays the Stations of the Cross together as a reflection on Christ's Passion.
- Opportunities to pray the Rosary are made available during the months of October and May, aligning with traditional Marian devotion.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to pupils during Advent and Lent, led by the parish priest, providing an opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection.

Daily and Classroom Prayer

All pupils are taught and encouraged to pray traditional Catholic prayers, including:

- The Sign of the Cross
- The Our Father
- The Hail Mary
- The Glory Be
- Grace before and after meals

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These prayers are part of our daily prayer life and help build a strong foundation in personal and communal spirituality. Children are also supported in learning and responding to Mass prayers and responses, enabling active and meaningful participation in the liturgy (*See APoP for more information*).

<u>Nursery and Reception</u> <u>(Park Class)</u>	<u>Year 1/2</u> <u>(Chisnall Class)</u>	<u>Year 3/4</u> <u>(Blainscough Class)</u>	<u>Year 5/6</u> <u>(Ellerbeck Class)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sign of the Cross • School Prayer • Grace Before Meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glory Be • Morning Prayer • Grace After Meals • The Lord’s Prayer • Hail Mary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostle’s Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of love • Eternal Rest

Religious Education and Prayer Formation

Through the Religious Education curriculum, pupils are taught significant prayers and expressions of faith, including:

- The Apostles’ Creed
- The Magnificat
- The Come, Holy Spirit prayer

These are explored in age-appropriate ways that deepen understanding and reverence for the faith.

Pupil Participation and Leadership

At St Oswald’s, all pupils are actively encouraged to take part in the planning, preparation, delivery, and evaluation of prayer and liturgy. From the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) through to Year 6, children are given age-appropriate responsibilities and opportunities to develop spiritual leadership and a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. Pupil involvement is progressive, allowing each child to grow in confidence and faith as they move through the school. Older pupils are supported in leading aspects of prayer and liturgy with increasing independence, fostering a sense of ownership and reverence.

The Celebration of the Word is central to our school’s spiritual life and is documented in a dedicated Prayer and Liturgy Book. These celebrations are further captured and shared through displays, written prayers, reflections, photographs, and videos, serving as a visible sign of our school’s vibrant prayer life. This inclusive approach helps to nurture a prayerful community where every child feels valued and spiritually enriched.

The Annual Plan of Provision (APoP) is an essential part of the school calendar, ensuring that the rhythm of prayer and liturgy is thoughtfully planned and prioritised in line with the Church’s liturgical year. The APoP serves as a guiding framework for embedding prayer and worship throughout the life of the school. (*See APoP for details.*)

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

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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.

This policy was last updated on	January 2026
Discussed and agreed by Governing Body	March 2026
Formal Review of Policy	September 2026

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