

St William's Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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2025/2026

Mission Statement:

*"By following Jesus' example, standing side by side,
we will nurture each other to fulfil our hopes and dreams."*

We believe that prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'. (Matthew 18:20)

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.)

The Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School:

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.

Collective worship takes 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 school may be their first and only experience of 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.

Statement of Requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily Prayer and Liturgy (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils. 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.

In a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education and must be delivered in addition to this.

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.

Responsibility

In all Catholic schools, prayer and liturgy are central to the life of the school. The Governors, headteacher and RE leader are responsible for ensuring there is effective prayer and liturgy provision, resources, training and planning in place to meet the requirements of the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. On-going collaboration with the parish and archdiocese forms part of this process to support best practice.

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Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision:

Our Aims

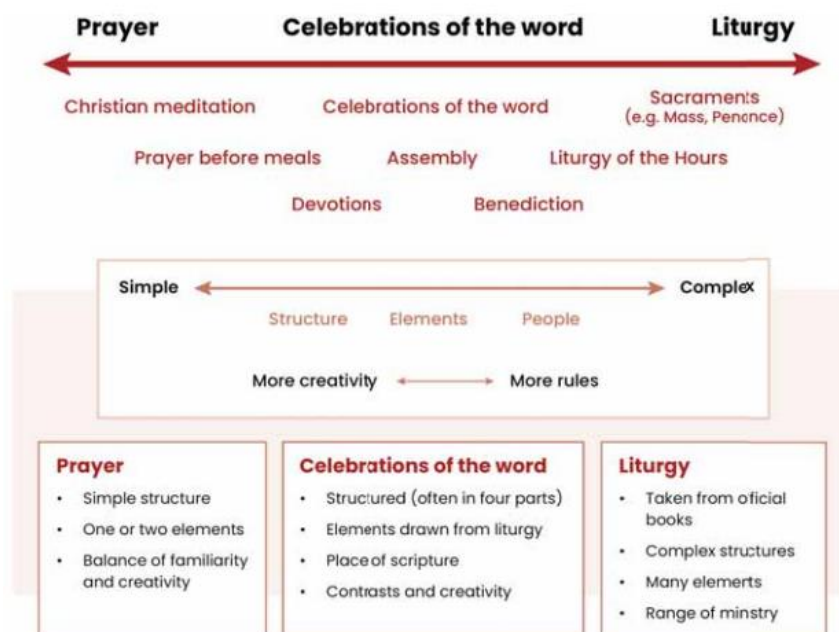
We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- Develop our sense of belonging and increase our respect for places and objects associated with prayer and liturgy.
- Enable us to relate prayer and worship to experiences such as beauty, joy and suffering.
- Encourage us to question the meaning and purpose of life.
- Provide opportunities to express our own thoughts and feelings through art, dance, music and literature.
- Help us to appreciate the value of silence and reflection in a quiet and prayerful atmosphere.
- Familiarise the children with the symbolism of the liturgy so that they know and enjoy to the full the liturgical life and tradition of the church.
- Be appropriate in its content, form, organisation, presentation and leadership taking into account the age, ability and background of the pupils.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- Be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 minutes. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes. For Key Stage 2)
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation and Environment

Teachers plan and enable prayer and liturgy to take place each day at an appropriate time. It may be organised in the classroom, in the hall or in church. Well selected artefacts are used to provide a focus. The setting should enable a space for reflection, celebration and prayer and through the creative and purposeful use of music and song.

Structure



The format for prayer and liturgy contains a four-part structure directly related to the structure of mass:

- **Gather (Introductory Rites)**- how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

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- **Word or listen (Liturgy of the Word/Responsible Psalm)** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- **Respond (Liturgy of the Eucharist)**– The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- **Go Forth (Concluding Rites)**– Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Child Led Celebrations and Worship

The children will be encouraged to be involved in the planning of Prayer and Liturgy opportunities, our aim in school is to facilitate the confidence in children to be actively involved in planning and taking part with the Liturgy. It is when we involve everyone that we bring the liturgy to life. We aim to support the children with their planning of Prayer and Liturgy through being a role model, we will follow the cycle outlined below which supports the children with their ownership of Prayer and Liturgy.

1. The teacher delivers Prayer and Liturgy
2. The children watch the teacher plan and deliver Prayer and Liturgy
3. The teacher helps the children to plan for Prayer and Liturgy opportunities
4. Teacher and children plan Prayer and Liturgy together, with the teacher as lead
5. Teacher and children plan Prayer and Liturgy together, with the child as lead
6. The teacher watches the child deliver Prayer and Liturgy
7. The children deliver Prayer and Liturgy on their own.

We understand that the leader of prayer puts Christ as the main focus, the leader of prayer is a facilitator to support the development of a deeper relationship with God.

Celebrations of the Word

'A celebration of the word will form the basis of many longer times of prayer, including assemblies or special liturgies to mark times in the school year.

This is a celebration which focusses on God speaking to us through the scriptures and which creates space and form for our response.'

(p39 To Love You More Dearly Directory 2023)

Within our school, celebrations of the word take place in the classroom or in the hall. Key Stage celebration of word take place on Monday morning (KS1) and Wednesday morning (KS2). On Fridays a celebration assembly is held which begins with prayer and liturgy.

Mass

Pupils in Key Stage 2 attend the parish masses in our school regularly and on a rota. At other times during the year, pupils attend mass altogether to celebrate significant dates in the liturgical year.

Other times of prayer

Throughout the day there are opportunities for short times of prayer which mark the time and the rhythm of the school day.

Use of a range of prayer experiences can enhance children's understanding of prayer.

Teachers are also aware of the order in which traditional prayers should be introduced.

The children in school enjoy other times of prayer and devotion, the church has a long and varied tradition of devotions these include the Rosary, Advent Wreath, Christmas crib and Stations of the Cross.

Each classroom has a focus table for Prayer and Liturgy.

Each class has a Prayer and Liturgy box for pupils to use in order to prepare the table and enhance worship gatherings, including cloth linked to the liturgical year.

Additional resources are stored in the school hall. Pupils and staff also bring in relevant topic resources from home to promote a theme /idea /prayer /experience.

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Age/Phase	5-7 KS1	7-9 Lower KS2	9-11 Upper KS2
Prayers	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 Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	Morning Offering The Rosary The Magnificat Act of Faith Act of Hope Act of Love

Individual Prayer

Alongside communal prayer in school we also facilitate times when personal prayer can be enjoyed. We understand and appreciate that in turn personal prayer will enhance communal prayer. Each class has a designated Prayer Space which allows and supports the children in their personal prayer and reflection times. School appreciates that pupils will need guidance and encouragement about how to pray by themselves. We aim to gradually develop the practice of silent prayer with pupils

Reconciliation and Holy Communion

The children in Y4 celebrate their first service of reconciliation, this takes place during Lent - a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place with a liturgy of the word leading to an opportunity for individuals to make a confession.

The children in Y4 celebrate their first service of Holy Communion in the Summer term. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion takes place with the opportunities for the children to receive Holy Communion.

Resourcing

The annual budget allocation reflects the priority placed on prayer and liturgy and resources are regularly updated and reviewed to enable effective provision.

Training and formation

Training is prioritised and is an essential part of maintaining staff understanding of the importance of prayer and liturgy. New staff are supported during their induction, and they are expected to embrace their role as leaders of prayer and liturgy in the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will be evaluated at least annually and as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Stay and Pray is also delivered termly and parents are invited to provide feedback, supporting the evaluation process.

Inclusion statement:

The school ensures all children have an entitlement to Collective Worship, including those with SEN&D and those identified as being gifted and talented. For additional information see SEN&D policy.

Policy review

The policy will be reviewed annually and in line with the school's review cycle.

Subject Leader:

Date:

Headteacher:

Date:

Chair of Governing Body:

Date:

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