

# Prayer and Liturgy Policy

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



|                     |                      |                                       |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Approved by:        | Full Governing Board | Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 |
| Last reviewed on:   | March 2023           |                                       |
| Next review due by: | July 2028            |                                       |

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

### Mission Statement

As the parents, pupils, staff and governors of St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, our mission is to *Follow the loving example shown by Jesus Christ*. We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 with him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

### 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 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 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)).

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator - Those responsible for prayer and liturgy (*at St Patrick's this role is shared between the Lay Chaplain and RE Lead*) 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

All acts of worship at our school will:

- give glory and honour to God;
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church;
- where possible, involve our Priest in Charge

These aims will be met through by providing a range of prayerful and liturgical experiences:

- Mass
  - We aim to hold one Mass in school each half term. This is an opportunity for the whole school community to gather together, with parents, carers, families and local parishioners also invited to join. Our yearly plan for Mass is:

| <u>Term</u> | <u>Theme of Mass</u>                                                     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autumn 1    | Harvest                                                                  |
| Autumn 2    | Advent                                                                   |
| Spring 1    | Candlemas                                                                |
| Spring 2    | Lent or an event of Holy Week (depending on when Easter falls each year) |
| Summer 1    | Ascension                                                                |

|          |                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer 2 | Ss Peter and Paul and celebration of First Holy Communion children<br>End of School Year |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- Each Wednesday morning, when possible, one year group (often from Key Stage Two) goes over to St Patrick's Church to join in the daily mass led by our Priest in Charge
- Through our singing assemblies, children learn hymns to be sung at Mass and the Mass responses, in both English and Latin
- Through regular participation in Mass, pupils will gradually develop understanding of the structure, responses, gestures and sacred nature of the Eucharist
- Celebration of the Word
  - Celebration of the Word is a form of prayer that has a clear structure but is less formal than a Mass or Liturgy. The structure 'Gather, Hear, Respond, Go Forth' is followed
  - Celebration of the Word is planned and coordinated by the Lay Chaplain and mainly focuses on the liturgical year. This will either be about the Sunday Gospel reading or special feast days taking place, including:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Examples of feasts and key celebrations for Celebration of the Word</u>      |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September    | Beginning of the school year, St Frederic Ozanam, St Matthew                    |
| October      | St Luke, Devotion to Mary                                                       |
| November     | Remembrance Day, St Edmund of Abingdon, Christ the King, First Sunday of Advent |
| December     | Advent                                                                          |
| January      | Epiphany                                                                        |
| February     | Candlemas, Ash Wednesday                                                        |
| March        | St Patrick's Day, The Annunciation, Palm Sunday                                 |
| April        | Holy Week, Easter, St George's Day, St Mark                                     |

|      |                                                                 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| May  | Crowning of Mary, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday                     |
| June | Corpus Christi, Body and Blood of Christ, Sacred Heart of Jesus |
| July | Transition Day, End of School Year                              |

- In our weekly key stage Celebrations of the Word, a “Mission of the Week is given.” This is inspired by the scripture heard and is a challenge for everyone to live out the message they have heard during the scripture reading
- To celebrate special feast days or events, the whole school may gather together for Celebration of the Word, instead of in key stages
- Holy Days of Obligation
  - For Holy Days of Obligation that we are in school for, we will provide an age-appropriate opportunity for our school community to celebrate. This includes:

| <u>Holy Days of Obligation</u> | <u>Provision</u>              |                               |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                | <u>EYFS</u>                   | <u>Key Stage One</u>          | <u>Key Stage Two</u>          |
| Nativity of the Lord           | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       |
| Epiphany                       | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       |
| Ascension                      | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       |
| Ss Peter and Paul              | Mass                          | Mass                          | Mass                          |
| Assumption                     | <i>During summer holidays</i> | <i>During summer holidays</i> | <i>During summer holidays</i> |
| All Saints                     | Celebration of the Word       | Celebration of the Word       | Attend Mass in Church         |

- If possible, some year groups will attend Mass in St Patrick’s Church on Holy Days of Obligation
- Sacraments
  - Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are offered during the seasons of Advent and Lent. This is led by our Priest in Charge and when required, a visiting Priest

- Daily Prayer
  - Each day, children will say four prayers to help them mark important moments in the day, These are the morning prayer, grace before and after lunch and the end of the day prayer.
  - Prayers may also happen more spontaneously and informally, responding to the feelings, thoughts and attitudes of children in a quiet, peaceful and reflective manner. Examples of this include thanking and praising God or saying sorry. These may be recorded in the prayer journal each class has
- Formal prayers
  - Through the RE curriculum and different prayer activities, the children will learn a variety of formal prayers. These prayers are set out in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:

| <u>Age phase</u> | <u>Key Stage One</u>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Lower Key Stage Two</u>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>Upper Key Stage Two</u>                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Prayers</u>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• The Lord's Prayer</li> <li>• Hail Mary</li> <li>• Glory be</li> <li>• Grace before meals</li> <li>• Grace after meals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Apostles' Creed</li> <li>• An Act of Contrition</li> <li>• Angel of God</li> <li>• Come, Holy Spirit</li> <li>• The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning Offering</li> <li>• The Rosary</li> <li>• The Magnificat</li> <li>• Act of Faith</li> <li>• Act of Hope</li> <li>• Act of Love</li> </ul> |

- Whole school prayer
  - On a Friday afternoon, Key Stages One and Two gather together for a time of prayer before celebration assembly begins. This time of prayer links to the scripture heard in the key stage Celebrations of the Word from earlier in the week, giving children the opportunity to reflect on this again and hear their mission for the week again. This is normally led by the Lay Chaplain.
- Other prayer traditions
  - The Catholic Church has a rich and varied tradition of prayer. In an age appropriate way, children will experience a range of prayer traditions, for example:
    - Rosary
    - Adoration
    - Visio Divina
    - Lectio Divina

- Meditative/contemplative prayer
- Family prayer
  - Each Friday morning, staff, pupils, parents, carers and families have the chance to gather together for ten minutes in prayer. The theme will reflect the liturgical year or the Church's monthly devotion
- Creative prayer
  - Each Monday, children will take part in a creative prayer activity. This is a chance to creatively explore a piece of scripture and come up with their own personal response
- Day of prayer
  - Each year we hold a whole school day of prayer. Held on the site of St Patrick's Church, all children are invited to take part in a range of creative prayer activities centred around a particular theme which links to the Liturgical year
- Pupil-led prayer
  - Children in Key Stage Two have the opportunity to apply to join the Pupil Ministry Team. These children apply to join a particular ministry (reader, psalmist, server or welcomer) and receive formation to undertake this role. They are identifiable through the different coloured sashes they wear when they perform their ministry
  - During the week, children have the opportunity to join in a time of pupil-led prayer at lunchtime. This may be held in our prayer garden or an alternative, weather-appropriate location. The theme of this often reflects the liturgical year or the Church's monthly devotion

Therefore, at St Patrick's a typical week of prayer would look like this:

|         | <u>EYFS</u>                                            | <u>Key Stage One</u>                                   | <u>Key Stage Two</u>                                                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday  | Creative Prayer Activity                               | Creative Prayer Activity                               | Creative Prayer Activity                                                                        |
| Tuesday | Celebration of the Word in class, led by class teacher | Celebration of the Word in class, led by class teacher | Key Stage Celebration of the Word led by Lay Chaplain, Pupil Ministry Team and Priest in Charge |

|           |                                                               |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | Alternative prayer activity (e.g. Visio Divina or Meditation) | Alternative prayer activity (e.g. Visio Divina or Meditation)                       | Alternative prayer activity (e.g. Lectio Divina or Meditation)<br><br>One Key Stage Two Year group attend Mass in Church |
| Thursday  | Key Stage Celebration of the Word led by Lay Chaplain         | Key Stage Celebration of the Word led by Lay Chaplain                               | Celebration of the Word in class, led by class teacher                                                                   |
| Friday    | Celebration of the Word in class, led by class teacher        | Key Stage One and Key Stage Two joint time of reflective prayer led by Lay Chaplain |                                                                                                                          |

### 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. Examples of monitoring activities may include:

- Observations of prayer and worship
- Pupil voice
- Governor monitoring visits
- Staff evaluations

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 Lay Chaplain, RE Lead, Headteacher and RE Governors Committee.