



**St. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY**

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Learning, Growing  
And Living with Jesus



"The glory of God is  
a human being fully alive"

# St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on  
Review

Signed

Chair of Governors

Signed

Headteacher

## **School Mission**

At the heart of everything we do at St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery are the Gospel values of love, respect, compassion and trust.

We pride ourselves on being a school at the heart of the community, working in partnership with our pupils, families and our parish, rooted in God-given Catholic virtues and values.

## **Our Mission Statement**

### **'Learning, growing and living with Jesus'**

This is the foundation on which everything is built and underpins our curriculum, policies, procedures and practices.

### **Our Vision**

We are an inspirational school: We are inspired, we aim to inspire and we seek to be inspirational in the following ways;

#### **LEARNING**

- We are inspired and empowered by the teachings of Jesus.
- We aim to inspire a passion for life-long learning.
- We seek to be inspirational by embracing curiosity, creativity and challenge.

#### **GROWING**

- We are inspired in the knowledge that we are unique and created in the image of God.
- We aim to inspire by showing love, respect and kindness.
- We seek to be inspirational by living Christ-centred, faith-filled lives.

#### **LIVING**

- We are inspired by our commitment and service to God.
- We aim to inspire by welcoming and celebrating diversity, culture and inclusion.
- We seek to be inspirational through active global citizenship.

## **1. 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)). Pupils of different faiths are to be present and respectful during prayer and liturgy times but do not need to fully participate.

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, 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.

#### **4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

Prayer is an important part of the daily life of the school. All children take part in four prayer times throughout each day. In the morning to welcome God into their hearts, before lunch to thank God for the food we are about to eat and those who have prepared it for us. After lunch for the food we have eaten and the friends we have shared it with and at the end of the day thanking God for his love throughout the day in every choice made and new learning achieved. There are also opportunities for unprompted prayer if or when the time arises. The children are also taught the school prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be as non-negotiables so they can be fully involved in the responses at church too.

All classes and open areas have a prayer table to represent the liturgical calendar.

*Ordinary times* -green,

*Advent and Lent* -purple,

*Christmas and Easter* -white

*Pentecost* – red

Items displayed on the prayer table are an open bible, a candle, a living thing, prayers and other artefacts that represent the Christian faith.

Pupils should be encouraged to take ownership of this area, and may provide meaningful items that they would like displayed to support their prayers and reflection.

Acts of worship happen everyday whether as a whole class, key stage or whole school.

*Monday* -whole school Gospel worship

*Tuesday* -Child-led worship

*Wednesday* -class led worship in phases (parents are invited), everyone else Child-led worship

*Thursday* -Songs of praise

*Friday* -Celebration worship.

Children attend masses with the parishioners at St Anthony's Church, which is on site. We start and end each term with a mass, celebrate Holy days of Obligations, our Feast Day (parents are invited) and Trust Feast Day all led by a different year group. We also celebrate Reconciliation in Advent and Lent and all children in years 2 and 4 have a days Retreats out of school in the church, to understand how special they are in God's eyes (parents are invited). Year 6 are lucky enough to have a residential retreat, where they learn to understand themselves and their relationship with God in greater detail.

#### **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.