



ST WULSTAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Version:	2024-2025
Date created/updated:	October 2024
Ratified by:	Saint Ambrose and St Wulstan's LGB
Date ratified:	October 2024
Date issued:	October 2024
Policy Review Date:	October 2025
Post Holder Responsible for Review:	Fiona Freitas



Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Prayer and Liturgy Policy has been approved and adopted by Saint Wulstan's Catholic Primary School October 2024 and will be reviewed in October 2025

Signed by the Chair of the Local Governing Body for Saint Ambrose and Wulstan's Catholic Primary School:

Mr David Gillett

David Gillett

Signed by the Executive Principal for Saint Wulstan's Catholic Primary School:

Mrs Emma Brocklesby

Emma Brocklesby

Contents	Page
1. Legal Requirements	4
2. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School	4
3. The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy	4
4. Implementation	5
5. Celebration of the Eucharist	5
6. Policy Monitoring and Review	6
7. The Catholic Curriculum	6
8. The Role of the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator	7
9. Communication	7
10. GDPR	7
11. Safeguarding	7

1. Legal Requirements

The legal requirement is that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that prayer and liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering. At St Wulstan's, responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy rests with the governing body after consultation with the Executive Principal, Head of School and RE Lead.

2. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that prayer and liturgy 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. Prayer and liturgy in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

3. The Aims of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- contemplate the mystery of God;
- unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;
- develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

4. Implementation

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Each week there is a Gospel assembly in the hall on a Monday. Key stage prayer and liturgy takes place in the hall (or virtually) each week on a Tuesday. Class prayer and liturgy sessions take place in classes every Wednesday. On a Thursday, children gather in the hall for celebration assembly, including the awarding of Discipleship Awards which are linked to our virtues and values. On a Friday there is a musical praise session in the hall.

Prayers are said in class throughout the day in class or as a whole school and include a morning prayer, Grace before and after meals and an evening prayer. During different liturgical seasons, these moments will take on the focus of the season and may be supplemented e.g. the Advent Bell during advent.

Prayer and liturgy in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:

Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sat in a different format, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

Listen (word) - a reading from the Scriptures, breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;

Respond (action) - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

Go forth (mission) - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

5. Celebration of the Eucharist

This takes place weekly for individual classes or for the whole school, either in classrooms or in the school hall. It also takes place at the beginning and end of terms, on holy or celebratory days.

6. Policy Monitoring and Review

The Local Governing Body are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to prayer and liturgy, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998. It is the overall responsibility of the Local Governing Body, in consultation with the Executive Principal, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the RE Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. The Local Governing Body (LGB) should review reports on the prayer life of the school.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for prayer and liturgy;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether prayer and liturgy is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on prayer and liturgy and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in prayer and liturgy.

Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process. Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and the LGB with recommendations for future action.

7. The Catholic Curriculum

Through the development of a Catholic Curriculum all staff have the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Social Teaching themes. Staff ensure that through the Prayer and Liturgy there are opportunities for the pupils to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the key principles of the Catholic Social Teaching themes. Pupils are also encouraged to use this gained understanding to make, age appropriate links to their everyday lives and the world around them. The Caritas In Action resources are used to support this learning and it is also enhanced through trips, visitors to school and experiential days as well as involvement in charitable organisations.

The Catholic School Pupil Profile is also linked to the Catholic Curriculum and the appropriate virtues are chosen and celebrated through the Prayer and Liturgy. The virtues are:

- Grateful & Generous
- Attentive & Discerning
- Compassionate & Loving
- Faith-filled & Hopeful
- Eloquent & Truthful
- Learned & Wise
- Curious & Active
- Intentional & Prophetic

8. The Role of the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator:

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Formulating a written policy;
- Ensuring there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy;
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils;
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings;
- Organising themes for worship;
- Assisting the Governance Committee in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy.

9 . Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.

10. GDPR

This policy adheres to the principles under data protection law. For further information please review the school's data protection policy published on the school's website.

11. Safeguarding

At Saint Wulstan's Catholic Primary School we play a crucial role in preventative education. Preventative education is a whole school approach in Prayer and Liturgy that prepares pupils for life in modern Britain and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia and sexual violence/harassment. We have a clear set of values and standards, upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of Prayer and Liturgy. Prayer and Liturgy is inclusive and developed to be age and stage of development appropriate.