

ST. JOSEPH'S



CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

School Mission Statement:

"Learning and Growing Together in the Light of God's Love"

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School...

We cherish the uniqueness of all individuals.

We aim to create a learning climate which promotes the development of the whole child and engenders a love for learning and excellence, so that within the framework of a broad and balanced curriculum, all may realise their potential.

We proclaim the Gospel values in the ways in which we love ourselves and others.

Worship, prayer and our relationship with God are at the heart of school life.

Date of Policy:	September 2025		
Policy Category:	Statutory	Review Cycle:	Every 2 years
Next Scheduled Review Date:	September 2027		

Policy Formation:

In this policy, the Governors and teachers, set out their intentions about Prayer and Worship. The policy sets out our rationale for, and approach to prayer and worship in the school. It is based on the model policy produced by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. It is reviewed every two years or as required by the Headteacher, RE Leader, staff and governors.

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; 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.

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.

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

Prayer and reflection is part of the rhythm of our school day. We make time each day to come together to give thanks to God and to pray for our own needs and those of others. Our older children enjoy playing a central role in these acts of worship. Children learn our school prayer as well as traditional prayers; they also compose their own prayers and we provide opportunities for personal prayer and meditation. Each week children participate in whole school and key stage liturgies and class-based Celebration of the Word. Children are also offered opportunities to join together in prayer, for example lunchtime Rosary Groups in October and May and Stations of the Cross during Lent. We follow the seasons of the Church's year and offer opportunities for parents to join us in prayer at key times of the year, such as Advent.

Term	Term Specific	Weekly/Ongoing/Monthly
Autumn Term	INSET Day Liturgy Governors Meeting Prayer Fairtrade Fortnight Oct: Rosary Club Staff Deanery Mass Grandparent's Day All Saints Day (Mass in School) Harvest Mass (Oct/Nov) Harvest Food Donations KS1 Nativities KS2 Advent Service Liturgy around the Crib	Weekly Lily Squad Liturgy (JD) EYFS + KS1 Liturgy (AC) Celebration Assembly (SC) Staff Meeting Liturgy (SC) Ongoing: Daily Class Prayers Mark's Mission in Class Weekly Class Liturgies Prayer in RE lessons (RE) Liturgical Year Hall Display RE Prayer tables in class (Change of Colour) Monthly Focus: Rosary Club in October (RE) Remembrance Book (November) Reconciliation (Advent) Advent: Charity TBC (Chosen by children)
Spring Term	Epiphany (Chalking of Classroom doors) Deanery INSET Singing through the Old Testament St Joseph's Day 19 th March World Earth Day Stations of the Cross Club (Lent) Fundraising Fridays (Lent – Led by Year 6 Houses) Class Lenten Liturgies to parents Y5+6 Easter Service	Weekly Lily Squad Liturgy (JD) EYFS + KS1 Liturgy (AC) Celebration Assembly (SC) Stations of the Cross Club (Lent Lunchtime) Fundraising Fridays (During Lent) Staff Meeting Liturgy (SC) Ongoing: Daily Class Prayers Mark's Mission in Class Weekly Class Liturgies Prayer in RE lessons (RE) Liturgical Year Hall Display RE Prayer tables in class (Change of Colour) Monthly Focus: Reconciliation (Lent) Lent (Fundraising Fridays) Singing Through the OT Easter Services
Summer Term	Our Lady Procession: May Pentecost Liturgy Good Shepherd Celebration Leavers' Mass Ambassador Award Presentation	Weekly Lily Squad Liturgy (JD) EYFS + KS1 Liturgy (AC) Celebration Assembly (SC) Rosary Club (May Lunchtime) Staff Meeting Liturgy (SC) Ongoing: Daily Class Prayers Mark's Mission in Class Weekly Class Liturgies Prayer in RE lessons (RE) Liturgical Year Hall Display RE Prayer tables in class (Change of Colour) Monthly Focus: Mary/ Rosary : May Pentecost: May/June (date dependant)

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 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, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and Evaluation

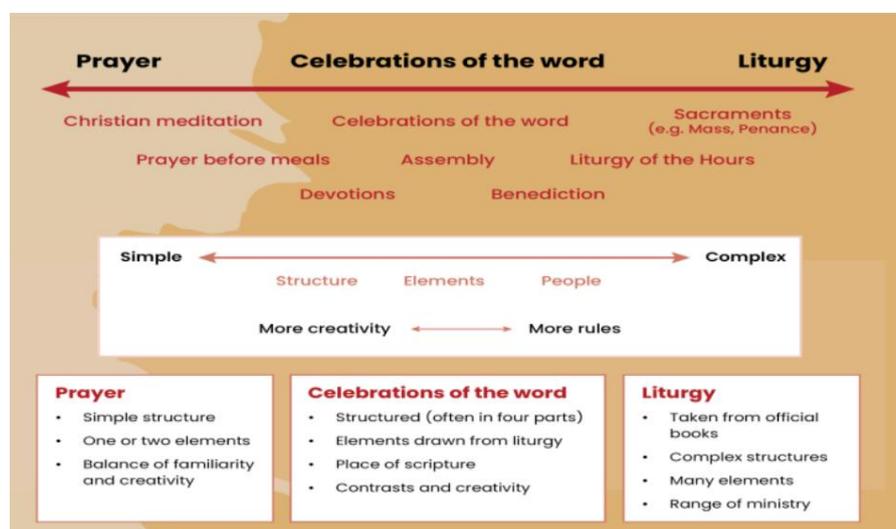
Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and involve all key stakeholders. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Our school context

St Joseph's has a particular mission to reveal to the children, who Jesus is and to teach them how to know Him, love Him and follow Him. As with all relationships, knowing and loving someone depends on spending time with them, speaking to them and listening to what they have to say to us. This is what is meant by participation in prayer.

Everyone in our school community is invited to participate in every aspect of prayer and liturgy. This participation begins with presence in the celebration and may progress to more active participation through engaging the senses or reflecting on the content in relation to their own experiences.

St Joseph's offers a rich diet of prayer and liturgy experiences for all children, on a continuum from least complex (spontaneous prayer and individual reflection) to more complex (Celebration of the Word assemblies) to most complex (liturgies including the Mass).



Prayer

Everyone is invited to take part in communal prayer, for example in classes at the beginning and end of each day, or at the beginning of meetings. Prayer can be led either by staff or children, with appropriate formation. Children of other faiths are invited to participate respectfully as far as their own faith permits them. All children are expected to maintain a respectful presence at times of prayer.

Mass

- Our intention is to include everyone to participate with us in prayerful silence, joyful sung praise and in listening to the Word of God. We seek to make our actions prayerful and deliberate so that they can be recognised by the youngest children in our school community. All members of our community are invited to receive a blessing from the priest.
- During Mass, readings will be taken from Universalis where possible and appropriate; otherwise readings for the theme of the Mass will be drawn from the children's RE learning (in accordance with the RE Directory) and appropriate to the liturgical calendar.
- Altar servers will be drawn from those who have been formed for this ministry in their local parishes
- At Holy Communion, all members of our community are invited to receive a blessing from the priest. Children in YR to Y3 will stand and be invited to have a blessing from the priest, indicated by placing their arms across their chest. After accepting the blessing, children are encouraged to make the Sign of the Cross.
- All children in Y4-6 will come forward to the priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. All children are invited to approach the priest either with their arms placed across their chest to receive a blessing or in readiness to receive Holy Communion (if they have completed the First Holy Communion preparation in their Catholic parish). Class teachers will support and remind children of this process before each Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- All children are invited to come forward to a priest for a blessing, whether or not they have been prepared to receive the sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available to all children who have made their first reconciliation after a period of preparation in their Catholic parish.

Music

“Music is integral to liturgy and celebrations of the word...Music highlights or gives prominence to the part of the liturgy where it is used. Therefore, the use of music matches the high points of the liturgy”. (PLD 6.2)

- All children are invited to participate fully in leading music during Mass, either through playing instruments, leading actions or singing.
- Music should be chosen to ensure that the text and the music fit the context of the liturgy.
- All music and hymns should reflect Catholic teaching and understanding of faith.
- Secular music where the text is consistent with Catholic teaching may be used in some forms of prayer assemblies.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

ANNUAL PLAN OF PROVISION 2025-26



Autumn Term		Significant Holy Days
Daily	Additional Celebrations	Weekly/Ongoing/Monthly Focus
<p>Morning, Lunchtime and end of day prayer.</p>	<p>INSET Day Liturgy Governors Meeting Prayer Fairtrade Fortnight Oct: Rosary Club Staff Deanery Mass Grandparent's Day All Saints Day (Mass in School) Harvest Mass (Oct/Nov) Harvest Food Donations KS1 Nativities KS2 Advent Service Liturgy around the Crib</p>	<p>September 8th Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Feast 14th Education Sunday October 1st October – St. Therese of Lisieux (Link to Yr5 RED) 7th October – Our Lady of the Rosary 10th October – World Mental Health Day November 1st November – All Saints Day (HDO) 11th November – Remembrance Day 17th November - World Day of the Poor 30th November – 1st Sunday of Advent December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent 21st 4th Sunday Advent 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent 25th The Nativity of the Lord (HDO) 26th St. Stephen, the first Martyr – Feast – 26th</p>

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Spring Term			Significant Holy Days
Daily	Additional Celebrations	Weekly/Ongoing/Monthly Focus	
<p>Morning, Lunchtime and end of day prayer</p>	<p>Epiphany (Chalking of Classroom doors) Deanery INSET Singing through the Old Testament St Joseph's Day 19th March World Earth Day Stations of the Cross Club (Lent) Fundraising Fridays (Lent – Led by Year 6 Houses) Class Lenten Liturgies to parents Y5+6 Easter Service</p>	<p>Weekly Lily Squad Liturgy (JD) EYFS + KS1 Liturgy (AC) Celebration Assembly (SC) Stations of the Cross Club (Lent Lunchtime) Fundraising Fridays (During Lent) Staff Meeting Liturgy (SC)</p> <p>Ongoing: Daily Class Prayers Mark's Mission in Class Weekly Class Liturgies Prayer in RE lessons (RE) Liturgical Year Hall Display RE Prayer tables in class (Change of Colour)</p> <p>Monthly Focus: Reconciliation (Lent) Lent (Fundraising Fridays) Singing Through the OT Easter Services</p>	<p>January 6th Epiphany of the Lord (Chalking of Classroom doors)</p> <p>February 18th Ash Wednesday (marking the start of Lent)</p> <p>March 1st St David's Day 17th St Patrick's Day 19th St Joseph's Day 29th Palm Sunday (the start of Holy Week)</p> <p>April 2nd Holy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper. 3rd Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus. 5th Easter Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. 22nd World Earth Day 23rd St George's Day</p> <p>May 14th Ascension of the Lord, celebrating Jesus' ascension into heaven. 24th Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit.</p>

Learning and Growing Together in the Light of God's Love

Summer Term			Significant Holy Days
Daily	Addition Celebrations	Weekly/Ongoing/Monthly Focus	
<p>Morning, Lunchtime and end of day prayer</p>	<p>Our Lady Procession: May (TBC end of Spring Term) Pentecost Liturgy Good Shepherd Celebration Feast of St Peter & St Paul Leavers' Mass Ambassador Award Presentation</p>	<p>Weekly Lily Squad Liturgy (JD) EYFS + KS1 Liturgy (AC) Celebration Assembly (SC) Staff Meeting Liturgy (SC)</p> <p>Ongoing: Daily Class Prayers Mark's Mission in Class Weekly Class Liturgies Prayer in RE lessons (RE) Liturgical Year Hall Display RE Prayer tables in class (Change of Colour)</p> <p>Monthly Focus: Mary/ <u>Rosary</u>: May Pentecost: May/June (date dependant)</p>	<p>June 4th Corpus Christi 29th Feast of Saints Peter and Paul</p>