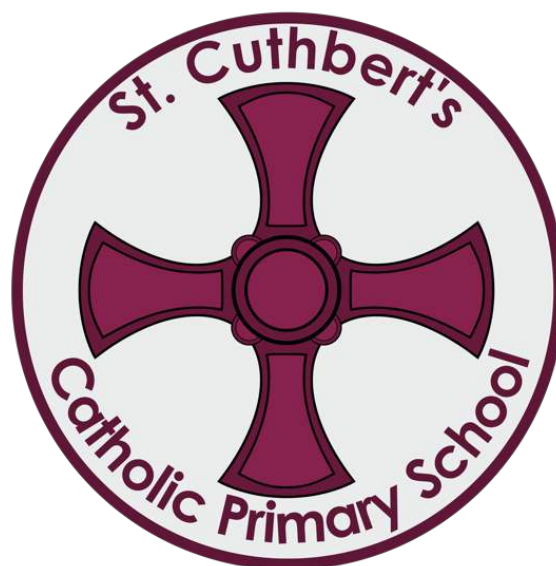


Prayer and Liturgy Policy

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary



Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: January 2023
Last reviewed on:	September 2016 (previously Collective Worship policy)	
Next review due by:	January 2025	

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1. Introduction

‘Every member of our school community at St Cuthbert’s is unique, talented and loved by God.

We strive for excellence and live our lives to the full with Christ in our head, in our hands and in our hearts.’

Every child has the right to an education. (Article 28 UNCRC)

Education must develop every child’s personality, talents & abilities to the full. (Article 29 UNCRC)

This policy is written with consideration for the Gospel values of our Catholic school and for our ongoing commitment to the Rights of the Child which underpins our day-to-day practice and ethos. Although direct reference to these considerations are not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to the faith and rights of our pupils.

As part of the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET), we are committed to upholding the key values of our family of schools in the sharing of prayer and liturgy.

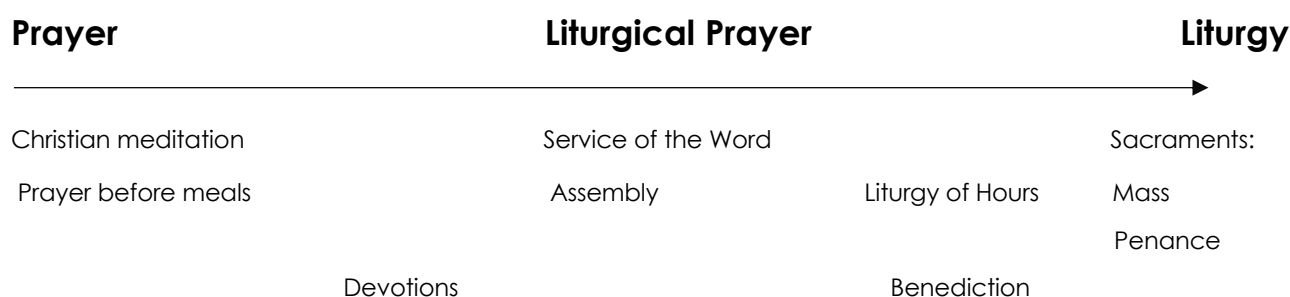
Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

(From the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory, September 2022)

In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.

Definition of Terms

Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.



Prayer	Liturgical Prayer	Liturgy
Simple structure	Structured (often 4 part)	Taken from official books
One or two elements	Elements drawn from liturgy	Complex structure
Balance of familiarity & creativity	Places of Scripture	Many elements
	Contrasts and creativity	Range of ministry

In Catholic terminology 'worship' is not generally used to name and describe a distinct type of prayer or event. Worship is about living our lives in a way that recognises that everything we have is a gift from God and that everything we do gives glory to God. That, of course, does include prayer but the scope is broader. With that understanding of worship it will be seen that the purpose of education in a Catholic school is to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of all pupils to the wonder of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow from this.

2. Vision: The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy 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, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'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.'¹

3. Aims

Prayer and liturgy in St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

4. Intent

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

As a Rights Respecting School we respect the rights of all of our children

Article 12 You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 14 You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 28 You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29 Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30 You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

5. Implementation

Principles

All acts of prayer in St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- 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.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Staff share prayers weekly at staff meetings.

Liturgies in our school follow the pattern of:

- Gathering – how we come together, the environment (quiet, reflective music, lighted candles, statues). Sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

- Listening – a reading from the Scriptures, time to reflect on this and prayer to fit into this theme.
- Responding – a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme.
- Mission/going forth - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from their experience of the liturgy that they can take into their lives.

Expectations for Prayer and Liturgy

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

Participation in daily act of collective worship remains at the helm of every morning, before lunch, within RE lessons and at the end of each day.

- Every class will have a focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the church's year. Focal points must not be untidy.
- Daily prayers are said at the start and end of each day, other prayers such as grace before and after meals are said.
- Monday – class led worship
- Tuesday, whole school collective worship will be linked to the Sunday Gospel and will be led or supervised by Senior Leadership team.
- Wednesday – Picture News – PSHE/british values
- Thursday – Whole school collective prayer and hymn practice to enrich prayer and liturgy
- Friday, whole school prayer is led by classes, and is usually linked to their RE theme. Parents and families will be invited to this worship.
- All classes attend Mass twice a term and lead their class Mass. The whole school attends Mass at the beginning of the year, the end of each term and on special feasts/holy days. Parents, families and parishioners warmly welcomed.
- Prayer is encouraged at home through the use of Travelling crib bags and Lent bags
- Class liturgies which are planned for as part of the curriculum, have a specific theme such as reconciliation and forgiveness during Lent.
- During the months of May and October, the school prays the Rosary for pupils and staff. Additionally, there are liturgies during school for parents, pupils and staff during Advent and Lent.
- Penitential services are carried out during Lent for the whole school and in Advent for Years 5/6. Children receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as a Mass/Service.

Leading Prayer and Liturgy

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy. The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

Recording

Prayer and liturgy is recorded in Prayer and Liturgy floorbooks.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and liturgy is monitored using prayer and liturgy monitoring form.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

Resources

Each class has an RE box with artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set of text books and age appropriate Bibles. Other resources are available in central store, including:

- Posters
- Candles
- CAFOD materials
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics
- Music
- God's Story and Church's Story

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

Year 4 attend the Emmaus Youth Village for 2 nights and Year 6 attend the Primary Festivals.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school Prayer and Liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to school guidance.

Eucharistic Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass, The Liturgy of the Word; the Eucharistic Prayer; and the Communion Rite.
- whole school and year group mass.

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

The 'act of worship' is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'Collective Worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

6. Impact

The Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy: Nicola Noble

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

7. Review

This policy links to

- SEND Policy
- PHSE / RSE policy
- RE policy
- Religious Education Curriculum Directory

This policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Lyndsey Huntley (RE co-ordinator)
- Nicola Noble (SLT, Prayer and Liturgy and Catholic Life and Mission co-ordinator)
- Mandy Lowery (RE Link governor)

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently