

St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2026-2027

Legal Status:	Non-Statutory
Last Review:	October 2024
Review date:	October 2026
Next Review:	October 2027
Responsible Person:	Governing Body

Mission Statement

"Keeping Jesus at the heart of everything we do."

Introduction

We use the language 'Prayer and Liturgy' in place of the term 'Collective Worship' in our daily life, practices and policies. This policy is written to reflect and support our school mission statement:

'Keeping Jesus at the heart of everything we do.'

Context

'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.)

Aims

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- Assist our children in developing their own personal relationship with God
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition

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)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church (celebrating Mass, proclamation of the Gospel, involvement in events and scripture throughout the liturgical year – such as Holy Week and Christmas and Benediction) including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music (praying the Rosary, the Angelus, visio divina, lectio divina, singing hymns) 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. However, Religious Education does provide children with the knowledge and understanding of Scripture, doctrine, sacramental life and Catholic teaching including Catholic social teaching. Prayer opportunities give the children the opportunity to respond to that learning through worship, reflection and an encounter with God. RE informs prayer, and prayer deepens and personalises what is learned in RE.

In addition:

- Foundation Governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools and academies have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools
- The governors and the head teacher are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for the whole school.

Our school must ensure that:

- There is a named person who is responsible for organising prayer and liturgy across the school. At St Saviour's this is Robina Baird, supported by Marta Bellas.
- Prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily
- All pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day
- Prayer and liturgy is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead
- There is regular and comprehensive monitoring of prayer and liturgy which clearly demonstrates the living of our school's Catholic mission

Sacramental Programme

As a school we aim to support our KS2 children as they approach their Sacraments. Our RE lead facilitates this programme in conjunction with our parish. Weekly sessions take place after school for the children who attend Sunday Mass regularly and are eligible for this. The Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion take place at Our Lady's Church in Ellesmere Port in the spring and summer term.

Assemblies

Assemblies provide an opportunity for the school community to join together in listening to, and reflecting upon, the Word of God and praising Him in prayer and song. Children are encouraged to be quiet and reverent during times of reflection, to actively participate in spoken prayers and to be keenly involved in celebration, sung prayers and action songs in a joyful and appropriate manner.

Our assemblies are as follows:

- A whole school hymn practice session takes place every Monday morning and is led by the Headteacher and Music Lead. This includes time to praise God through song.
- A whole school Gospel Assembly is led by the Headteacher every Wednesday morning. This includes time for prayer, worship through hymns and a focus on the Sunday Gospel.

- A whole school Celebration Assembly is led by the Headteacher or Senior Teacher every Friday morning. This includes time for prayer and a celebration of children's achievements.
- We have special assemblies or services, led by the Headteacher and Mini Vinnies to mark our journey through the Liturgical Year, for example our Remembrance Day, Ash Wednesday Service, Feast Days such as Feast of All Saints, Feast of Sts Peter and Paul.
- Each individual class leads an assembly on at least two occasions during the year. One of these assemblies has an RE focus and they all include prayers and reflections.

Prayer and Liturgy in the classroom

Each class has a prayer focus area. A crucifix, statue, picture, Bible, cross, candle or other such articles are often the focus for reverence. These are added to and changed according to the liturgical colours and feasts and may include elements of the current RE topic.

Each class has a 'Prayer and Liturgy' resource box, which contains a wide range of coloured cloths, artefacts, books etc to support teachers in adapting their prayer focus area for different times of the Liturgical Year. The Prayer and Liturgy boxes also include planning resources to assist children in preparing and leading Prayer and Liturgy in their class. They are different for each Key Stage.

Some prayer sessions contain the following elements:

Gather	How the children gather into the prayer space?
Listen	How will the Word of God be revealed to the children?
Respond	How will children respond to the Word of God?
Go Forth	What is the children's mission after receiving the revelation?

Others, such a Visio Divina contain these elements:

- Visio (look)
- Meditatio (meditate)
- Oratio (pray/respond)
- Contemplatio (contemplate)

And Lectio Divina:

- Lectio (read)
- Meditatio (meditate)
- Oratio (pray/respond)
- Contemplatio (contemplate)

Prayers are said daily in each classroom at the beginning and end of the morning and afternoon sessions and before lunch. We have prayer progression documents for each year group. These ensure that by the end of Year 6, children are able to participate confidently in a wide range of prayer experiences whilst understanding different forms of Catholic prayers.

As part of our RE units of work, children are often asked to contribute to class prayers or to compose their own prayers based on a theme. These may be shared and celebrated and incorporated into the daily prayers as appropriate.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, there is a robust monitoring schedule which takes place. This is in the form of pupil/staff/parent questionnaires, observations and learning walks. This is conducted by the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team and RE lead. The headteacher and RE subject lead meet regularly to evaluate monitoring completed and set targets to further develop areas of Prayer & Liturgy within school.