

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

By order of the Governing Body of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Review Dates:	Date Reviewed: September 2025	Next Review: September 2026
Approved by:	Mrs Debbie Main (Chair of IEB)	Mr Nicholas Stopps (Headteacher)

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.

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 (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).

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, 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. Responsibilities

(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 Chaplaincy Lead and RE Leader).
- 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 (Chaplain Leader and RE Leader)

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 are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils.
- Induction on prayer and liturgy take 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 the parish.
- 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 and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, school feast 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 prayer takes place regularly especially in the weekly staff reflection, at the beginning of weekly staff meetings, SLT meetings, Governor Meetings and INSET Days.

The timetable of Prayer and Liturgy is as below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 – 3 Lower School	9.00 – 9.25am Whole School Gospel Assembly	9:00 – 9:25am Praise and Sing Assembly	09:00 – 09:15am Class Collective Prayer Time	9:00 – 9:25am Lower School CST/Virtue/Special Event Assembly	09:00 – 09:25am Celebration of the Word & Achievement Assembly
Year 4 – 6 Upper School	Led by Headteacher (Chaplaincy Leader or AHTs in their absence)			10:50 – 11:15am Upper School CST/Virtue/Special Event Assembly	

On occasions, there may be days where there is no assembly. In these instances, the class teachers organise collective worship which will generally occur within classrooms.

Prayers are said each morning, before and after lunch and at the end of the day.

Eucharist

A calendar for the school year is organised to celebrate the Eucharist. Children from Year 3 – 6 will plan and undertake roles within Masses. We gather as a school community to share the Eucharist on various days during the liturgical year e.g. the feast of Our Lady of Peace. Mass is celebrated at least once each school term. Year groups also visit the church to participate in celebrating the Eucharist with the parish.

The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharist celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

Recording

Prayer and liturgy is recorded:

- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, Class RE Journals etc;
- through the school's Annual Plan of Provision;

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.

Policy reviewed: September 2025

Next Review: September 2026