PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 15/10/25 and will be reviewed annually at the start of each academic year.

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1. Our Mission Statement

Everything we do at our school aims to embody the intent behind our Mission Statement:

Loving all, like Jesus, we flourish together

At St Gregory's we do our very best to welcome everyone into our school community with kindness and respect. We follow Jesus's example of loving everyone equally whilst also showing the Gospel Values of compassion; forgiveness; and peace.

We try to help others, stand up for those who need our support (in life and online) and be always ready to forgive, even though these things are sometimes really hard to do!

We have loads of opportunities to discover and practise the unique talents that God has given us. This helps us to grow in our minds, in our hearts and in our relationships with others so we can be the very best versions of ourselves, now and in the future.

We try to make strong friendships with everyone we meet, both near and far; and we always aim to work as one big team and never leave anyone out, just like Jesus taught us.

It goes without saying that Prayer and Liturgy provision is integral to making this a lived reality for all within our school community.

2. 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.)

3. 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 them 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.

4. 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.

(c) 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 (see Appendix)
- 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.

(d) Liturgy Leaders

In each class, Liturgy Leaders are chosen to play a lead role in helping to facilitate Prayer and Liturgy sessions. They meet regularly with the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and have a wide variety of roles appropriate to their age and stage of development (see Appendix).

5. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision

Prayer

Amongst other things, typically our Prayer Provision includes:

- Class Prayers are said at the start of each day, before lunch and at the end of each day (see Appendix)
- Prayers for staff and Governors take place at the start of meetings
- Opportunities for individual prayer are also woven throughout the day, e.g. in response to the learning in RE at the end of the lesson

Celebration of the Word and Mass

Amongst other things, typically our Celebration of the Word and Mass Provision looks like this:

	What?
Monday	Whole-school Assembly based around this week's Gospel or celebration of the Word linked with a relevant season/theme
Tuesday	Class-based Examen
Wednesday	Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy sessions based around Celebration of the Word Weekly Mass (on a rota basis, one class per week attends Mass over at Church with parents and parishioners)
Thursday	Class-based Gospel Reflection
Friday	Whole-school reflection on the week, based on Monday's Gospel and 'going forth' activity

- Whole-School Mass is celebrated typically at the start and end of each term over at Church along with parents and parishioners. We also attend Mass as a whole school on Holy Days of Obligation such as All Saints Day.
- Our Y3 children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and also make their First Holy Communion, supported by catechists from the parish, celebrated over at church by the whole community
- Y6 children receive the Sacrament of confirmation, prepared by parish catechists
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are offered during Advent and Lent
- Other Special Liturgies take place across the year, such as: Advent Reflections; Advent Carol Services; Stations of the Cross, all with parents, governors and parishioners typically in attendance

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the Governors

APPENDIX

Blank Prayer and Liturgy Planner

For child-led/centred class Prayer and Liturgy – to be used in conjunction with the 'Young Prayer Leaders Handbook' from Lancaster Diocese which gives 'best practice' prompts as to what to include in each section.

Class:		Leader(s):		Date:	
Theme:					RAG
Preparation Required / Things to remember	• Special time and sacred space – poster on the door • Powerpoint • Cross, candle, picture, artefacts • Horse shoe shape if possible (all things out of hands and focus on our special, sacred time) • Loudly, slowly, clearly; Pauses between sentences • Big actions – chn sit when not participating				
Gather					
Listen					
Respond					
Mission/ Go Forth					
Evaluation	*Next time we will …*				

Liturgy Leaders Expectations

	Expected Leadership activities include …
EYFS/KS1	• Lead role when saying daily prayers • Putting up and taking down the Prayer and Liturgy poster on the door • Work Powerpoint/computer etc to turn music on and off • Actions to welcome everyone • Lead on saying and making the sign of the cross at start and end • Lead on saying 'A reading from the Gospel of …' and 'The Gospel of the Lord' • Lead others in saying: 'Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ' • Lead on responses expected of other children participating • Basic role play of the Gospel story or actions to support the reflection element • Make resources (with adult input where necessary) • Leadership responsibilities at Mass
LKS2	All of the above, plus … • Reading the Gospel/Scripture passage • Leading some elements of the reflection • Make resources with minimal adult input • Leadership responsibilities at Mass
UKS2	• To aim to lead most sections of the Prayer and Liturgy session, with minimal input from an adult • To facilitate lunchtime prayer space in the Wild Room, with opportunities for private prayer and collective reflection based on the Word • Leadership responsibilities at Mass

Age and Stage-Related Mass Participation Expectations

	Expected involvement includes …
EYFS/KS1	• Entering church calmly and quietly • Sitting and engaging with the Mass with reverence and respect • Sing parts of songs they recognise • Making the sign of the cross and saying the words, at start and end of Mass • Saying 'Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ' after the Gospel • Make a sign of peace with others • Any of the following from LKS2 and UKS2 they are familiar with
LKS2	Using their Mass booklets and Hymn books, all of the above, plus … • All songs • Joining in with basic call and response (*Lord, have mercy – Lord, have mercy* etc) • Joining in with responses to the end of Readings; Psalm; Gospel and Bidding Prayers • To say The Our Father and Hail Mary • To receive the Eucharist where relevant • To respond to the Rite of Dismissal • Help set up the Mass, including handing out sheets to parishioners etc
UKS2	To join in with all elements of the Mass, using their Mass booklets and Hymn books

Expected Child Leadership/Involvement at Weekly Class Masses

	Rec	**Y1**	**Y2**	**Y3**	**Y4**	**Y5**	**Y6**
Opening Hymn							
First Reading							
Psalm							
Sung Alleluia							
Bidding Prayers							
Offertory							
Communion Hymn							
Closing Hymn							

Daily Prayers

Morning Prayer

Father in heaven you love me

You are with me night and day

I want to love you always in all I do and say.

I'll try to please you Father.

Bless me through the day

Amen

Prayer before meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,

Bless the food we eat today,

Bless the hands that make the food,

Bless us O Lord

Amen

Prayer at the end of the day

God our father

We come to say

Thank you for your love today,

Thank you for my family

And all the friends

You give to me

Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send you light.

Amen