



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

'Love, Learn, Respect and Appreciate'

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body in March 2026 and will be reviewed in March 2027.

Signed by the Chair of Governors: **Fr Dave Heywood**

Signed by the Headteacher: **Sharon Orwin**

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we believe every child is a precious and unique gift from God. Our vision is that all children leave St Oswald's with a deep love of learning, a joyful curiosity about the world, and a strong understanding and appreciation of their Catholic faith. We want them to look back on their time with us filled with happy memories, meaningful friendships and a true sense of belonging.

We aim to nurture confident, independent and resilient learners who feel safe, valued and loved. Within our warm and caring community, we provide excellence in education so that every child can flourish, make strong progress from their starting points and reach their full potential.

We are committed to helping children grow not only academically, but spiritually and morally supporting them to recognise and appreciate the world they live in, and understand how they can make a positive difference to others.

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, (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; 70 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. Responsibility

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.

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 leaders 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

The policy is implemented through various types of liturgical celebrations, some of which are sacramental. Other celebrations include class assemblies, other assemblies and classroom worship.

- During the school year, the children will experience celebrations in their class group, (through; whole school services/Masses, classroom worship – both led by the children) in school, (in assemblies and para-liturgy), in church, (Mass, Feast Days, May Procession, Walking Day, the Sacramental Programme), and in the wider context as the opportunities arise.
- Parents, families and Friends of the School are invited to share in some of our celebrations. For example, school Christmas and Easter productions, Masses and Services, May Procession and other sacramental celebrations.
- Parents, Friends of the School and parishioners are invited to take a weekly newsletter provided by the school informing them of any events in the school. Paper copies are made available at the back of the parish church and at the school office and it is also available through 'OurSchoolApp' and on the school website.
- Also available on the school website each term is an RE newsletter and each half term a class curriculum overview.
- The Wednesday Word is also available for children and families each week to share.

The school in the Parish/Community:

Our school benefits from close relationships with our parish. We have people from the parish community, who become prayer sponsors for the children taking part in the sacramental programmes.

Children attend Mass with their 'prayer buddy' class on Tuesday morning, with the parish, in St. Oswald's Church.

Prayer buddy classes also share a prayer and liturgy time, on the last Friday of the month in school. This can take place in the prayer garden, classroom or school hall.

Children are given the opportunity to raise money for 'Cafod', Mary's Meals and 'Nugent care' through the 'Good Shepherd' as well as other charity work. Our Year 5 children or the Mini Vinnies group take part in a celebratory Mass at the Liverpool Cathedral for 'Good Shepherd', alongside all the other school's involved in the archdiocese.

We have links with 'Mission Together' and raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves in countries around the world, e.g. Cambodia and Malawi, for "Children helping Children." Each class is given 'Missio' red boxes throughout Lent to make links and receive contributions from home.

- The programme used for the sacramental preparation of Reconciliation and Eucharist is based on “With You Always.”
- The children are given worksheets for their sacramental preparation to take home and share further with their parents and families. They are then offered up at celebration Masses for the children receiving the Sacraments.
- The children are given a prayer sponsor from the parish community. A white sash, which has been embroidered with the symbols of Christianity, by a group of the parishioners, is also given to each child receiving the sacraments. A display is put up at the back of church.

Resources

There is a communal resource area for collective worship in the school.

These resources include:

- 3x files of age-appropriate scripture, for the children to use in the ‘Listen’ element (EYFS & KS 1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2).
- Focus objects: hearts, pebbles, flickering LED Candles, pictures, cloths.
- Prayer books, hymn books, God’s Story, Bibles.

Each of the classrooms have:

- Prayer focus table
- Cd player and reflective Cds to play.
- John Burland CDs of music appropriate to the year group.
- Collective Worship table with a white tablecloth and different cloths which represent the liturgical colours of the church (red/green/purple).
- Candles (Flickering LED lights for safety reasons)
- Good News Bible
- God’s Story and the Church’s Story are in each class (Relevant to the appropriate age group.)
- Various collective worship focus objects: heart, pebbles, lights, pictures, cloths.
- Crucifix

Prayer Bags:

During different times of the Church’s liturgical year, there are Home/School links for collective worship.

Prayer bags are made up for each class during Lent, Advent/Travelling Nativity and Ordinary Time, using the appropriate green and purple colours. This allows children to have some reflective, prayer time with their families. The children can choose to evidence their special time in a class book, by doing some of the suggested activities, sticking in a photograph or writing their own prayer and adding it to the book. The prayer bags are passed around the class, so each child/family gets a turn to take it home. The prayer bags, contain objects the children can use to set up their own collective worship display at home, with a different focus for each season.

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.

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.

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.

Review

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

Policy Ratified: 11th March 2026

Review: March 2027