



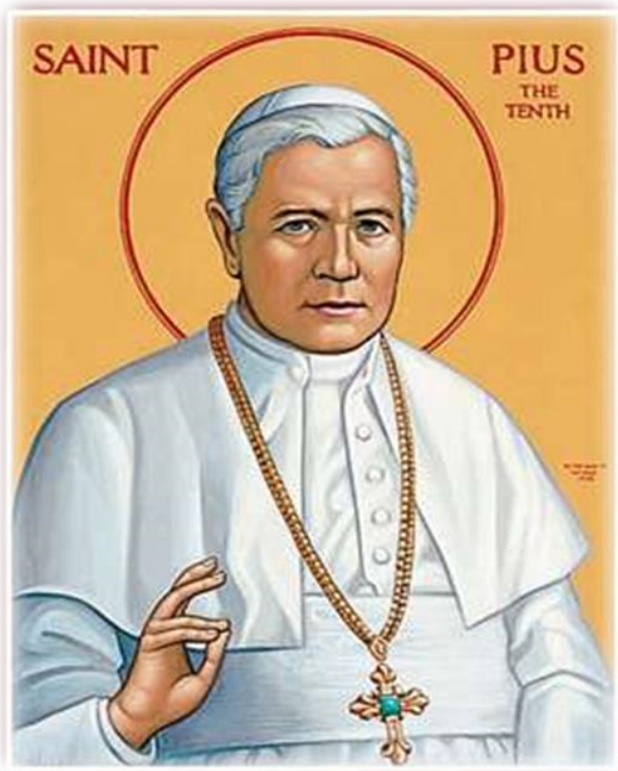
# PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY

## MISSION STATEMENT

Together in God's loving family,  
we believe, we learn, we grow.

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Completed and reviewed during: | September 2025 |
| Date of next revision:         | September 2026 |

## Prayer and liturgy policy



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### **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, 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)). 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.

### **3. 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
- 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.

#### **4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

Please find our annual plan of provision for Prayer and Liturgy for 2025 - 2026 [here](#).

Please find our prayer and liturgy schedule for the Autumn Term [here](#).

|           |                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Liturgical Music Practice includes collective worship  |
| Tuesday   | Gospel Assembly – led by Headteacher                   |
| Wednesday | Wednesday Word                                         |
| Thursday  | Class based Collective Worship<br>Class Assemblies     |
| Friday    | Celebration Assembly<br>Class based Collective Worship |

#### **Daily Prayers**

- Prayer is woven into the daily life of our school through Collective Worship and within our school liturgy assemblies and faith celebrations. Prayer is planned for but can also happen at any point in the school day. There is a strong pupil involvement in the preparation and presentation of prayer.

- Morning prayers, lunchtime prayers and evening prayers are said in class and led by our R.E leaders and staff.
- Each class has a prayer table which provides a focal point for prayer and a RE display which provides a visual stimulus for prayer. Staff should take account of liturgical colours and each prayer table should have a religious statue, crucifix, Bible and candle.
- All Governing Body Meetings and Staff Meetings begin with shared prayer.
- Children are encouraged to share music and hymns as part of our shared prayer life in the school.

## 📖 Liturgical Music Practice/Assemblies

- Liturgical Music Practice is held weekly.
- Weekly Whole School Liturgy with a Gospel focus that leads the theme for the week.
- PSHE assemblies/themed assemblies (liturgical themes, Saint's days, world religions/festivals and world events etc.) are held when appropriate
- Celebration/achievement assemblies are also held weekly. All of these begin with an act of worship and provide an opportunity to share the school's values of **service, forgiveness, kindness, peace, integrity and fairness**

## 📖 Class Assemblies

- Each year group holds an assembly for the rest of the children, staff and parents each year. The chosen themes are often religious but where they are not, the assemblies have religious elements to them and always start and end with prayers. These assemblies promote shared understanding, reflection, the sharing of the talents that God has given us and the children's achievements.

## 📖 Liturgies/Prayer Services

- Liturgies are held weekly in the school hall for all children. These are a special time of prayer and reflection for staff and children.
- There is a long tradition of Christians learning prayers and phrases of scripture by memory that they can call upon when needed. We speak about learning prayers 'by heart' so that they can spring from the heart. At St Pius X, we provide pupils with a student prayer book that they can use to support them to learn the prayers, but also to have a place to turn to express in prayer the hopes and fears of growing in life and faith.
- Please find an example of the children's prayer book [here](#), which details the different prayers that they will learn in each year group.

## **☐ Eucharist**

- Whole school Masses are held at the beginning and end of each term in the parish church or school hall. Parents/visitors and parishioners are invited into school to participate in Mass.
- Class Masses for all children are held during the year; parents and visitors are invited to attend.
- Whole School Masses are celebrated in school on Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast Days and Celebrations. Opportunities for year 5 & 6 for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.
- KS2 children attend Friday morning mass at our parish church, The Blessed Sacrament, once a term.
- Seasonal celebrations and school events are also celebrated in school, e.g. Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent.
- Year 6 children attend a special Mass at the end of the school year to celebrate their achievements and moving on to secondary school.

## **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, 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 involve all key stakeholders. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as part of the school's development plan.

## **8. Review**

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

## **Our school prayers**

| <b>Age phase</b> | <b>5–7 (KS1)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>7–9 (Lower KS2)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>9–11 (Upper KS2)</b>                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prayers          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sign of the Cross</li><li>• The Lord's Prayer</li><li>• Hail Mary</li><li>• Glory be</li><li>• Morning Prayer</li><li>• Grace before meals</li><li>• Grace after meals</li><li>• Prayer before home</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Apostles' Creed</li><li>• An Act of Contrition</li><li>• Angel of God</li><li>• Come, Holy Spirit</li><li>• The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Rosary</li><li>• The Magnificat</li><li>• Act of Faith</li><li>• Act of Hope</li><li>• Act of Love</li></ul> |

## **Appendix 1**

### **The role of the Leader for Prayer and Liturgy**

The role of leading Collective Worship within the school is the responsibility of the RE subject leader. They will be responsible for:

- Formulating a written Prayer and Liturgy policy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and that it is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Developing the role of the pupil RE Leadership Team.

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Prayer and Liturgy
- Plan the liturgy for whole school occasions and liturgical year
- Informing the Head Teacher & Governors of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy.

### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Prayer and Liturgy

- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as a professional support to colleagues in delivering 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 Diocese.

### **Professional development/ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back

### **Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources and ensuring budgeting efficiently
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Statement on Prayer and Liturgy**

It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- Names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- Is educative
- Is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- To give honour and praise to God
- To develop the school as a community of faith
- To assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- To witness to the community and the wider world.

Prayer and Liturgy in our schools will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Recorded
- Monitored
- Evaluated

In order to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy experienced within the school is a relevant meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.