



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2026

Reviewed by:	Mrs Mealy
Approved by:	Governing Body
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1. 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.)

All of the values we live by at St. Peter's RC High School align with Gospel values, following the instructions and examples set out by Jesus:

- **Love** – to show love to all
- **Achievement** – to grow into the person that God is calling us to be
- **Responsibility** – to take responsibility for the world around us, our actions and our words
- **Diversity** – to celebrate and draw strength from our diverse school community

Through words, actions and relationships, our whole school community is nurtured in its response to God's call and challenged to celebrate it joyfully in life and liturgy. We are proud to be a school **where everybody matters**.

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

1.1 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.

2.1 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.

1.1 Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators

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 catholic life of the school 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 events and activities
- 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 and partnerships 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

- Daily acts of worship take place in morning registration. Prayer resources are provided by chaplaincy, facilitated by students and staff.
- Whole school Masses scheduled in the school calendar.
- Special Masses in the year include Year 7 welcome Mass, Year 11 Thanksgiving Mass, Faith in Action Masses for Year 8 and 9.
- Once a term, Form Masses occur for all year groups
- Half Termly Celebration of the Word for every year group.
- Stations of the Cross for all students during Lent.
- Remembrance services for all students during month of November.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation during seasons of Advent and Lent.
- Students pray the Rosary during RE lessons in October and May.
- Ash Wednesday services take place on site when it falls in term time.

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 will be supported 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 at St Peter's.

Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development throughout the academic 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 involve all key stakeholders: students, 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.

