St Philip Howard Catholic School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This Prayer and Liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body in September 2026 and will be reviewed in September 2027.

Signed by the Chair of Governors

Signed by the Headteacher

We are part of God's family, We follow the way of Jesus by loving, learning and doing our best

.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; 70 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 ;: Sue Gajjar, Assistant Headteacher)

• 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

Prayer and Liturgy take place on a daily basis throughout prayers in the day as well as Celebrations of the Word.

Daily prayers take place;

- Beginning of the school day
- Grace is said before lunch
- End of the day prayer

There is a weekly school plan for Collective Worship:

Daily Prayer & Liturgy Weekly Timetable Reception – Year 6		
Monday	Daily prayers in class	Phase assemblies
Tuesday	Daily prayers in class	Collective worship in class (teacher led)
Wednesday	Daily prayers in class	Collective worship in class (child led as age appropriate)
Thursday	Daily prayers in class	Singing worship (whole school)
Friday	Daily prayers in class	Whole school assembly
Nursery	Daily prayers in class	Collective Worship once a week in class

Catholic Social Teaching and Our Prayer and Liturgy

At St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, prayer and liturgy are the heartbeat of our school community. Guided by the Gospel and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we believe that authentic prayer always leads us to love and serve others.

Through our daily worship, we nurture children to put their faith into action in the following ways:

- **Human Dignity.** Every child and adult is made in the image and likeness of God. Our prayer and liturgy celebrations are inclusive, welcoming, and accessible to all, affirming the unique worth of every individual and encouraging children to treat one another with kindness and reverence.
- **Solidarity and the Common Good.** Gathering together to pray unites us as one school family and connects us to the global Church. Through shared worship, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, praying for peace, justice, and the good of our local and global communities.
- **Preferential Option for the Poor.** Jesus teaches us to have a special care for those who are vulnerable, lonely, or in need. Our liturgies inspire children to look beyond themselves, prompting charitable outreach, fundraising, and practical acts of service that support families in our community and worldwide charities such as CAFOD.
- **Participation and Subsidiarity.** We believe every child has a meaningful role to play in the life of the Church. Children are actively encouraged to plan, lead, and evaluate prayer and liturgy across the school, developing their confidence and sense of responsibility as young disciples.
- **Care for Creation (Stewardship).** Our worship regularly gives thanks to God for the gift of our common home. Through seasonal celebrations, outdoor prayer, and mindful use of sustainable resources in our prayer spaces, we encourage children to protect and care for the natural world.

In line with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, our celebrations follow the rhythm of the liturgical year and send our children forth at the end of every gathering with a clear mission to live out the Gospel in their classrooms, homes, and wider community."

Masses are celebrated at numerous times across the academic year celebrating the start and end to each term, significant dates in the liturgical calendar and the St Philip Howard Feast Day. The children from year 4, 5 and 6 go to Church to celebrate a parish Mass each term. During Lent and Advent everyone at school learns about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and understands the importance of it. The children from year 4-6 then take part in a carousel of activities to help them to reflect on the importance of Reconciliation. Children in the Chaplaincy Team also prepare Rosary Services for the school community to take part in, both in October and May.

Prayer & Liturgy Throughout the School Year	
Whole school Masses (in school)	● Beginning of Autumn term ● SPH Feast Day (19th October) ● Beginning of Spring term ● Beginning of Summer term ● Leavers' Mass (July)

	● Other Masses as relevant e.g. staff retirement, bereavement
Masses attended at the Church	● Holy Days such as SS Peter & Paul ● Years 4, 5,6 every term ● Y3 Summer term (after First Communions)
Involving parents	● Invited to all Masses in school ● Rosary prayer meetings in the playground weekly during May and October led by the Chaplaincy Team ● Ash Wednesday service in school (whole school) ● Class assemblies ● Christmas Nativity led by Yr2 ● Carol Service (whole school) ● Stations of The Cross (whole school) ● Easter Passion Play led by Y4 ● Leavers' Mass Y6
School/Parish links	● Education Sunday (September) ● Corpus Christi procession ● First Communion Masses (Summer)
Reconciliation + Carousel of activities	● Years 4, 5 & 6 during Advent and Lent

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.

There is a separate Formation Policy to support staff.

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.