



St Paschal Baylon
Catholic Primary School

Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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'Following in the footsteps of Christ'

At St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life and mission of the school. Our provision is rooted in our school mission statement 'Following in the Footsteps of Christ', and seeks to give pupils and adults regular opportunities to encounter God, listen to Scripture, respond in prayer and carry the Gospel into daily life.

Prayer and liturgy respect the range of experiences represented within our school community while remaining distinctly Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and keeping Christ at the heart of school life.

Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

The school recognises and respects the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from prayer and liturgy.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time and are not part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

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 are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- there is a named person or persons responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school;
- this Prayer and Liturgy Policy is updated regularly and shared with governors and staff;
- there is appropriate resourcing for prayer and liturgy which 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 are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- the Headteacher works in partnership with the leader for prayer and liturgy;
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy receive appropriate training and formation;
- suitable resources and spaces are available for prayer and liturgy.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- there is an Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) for prayer and liturgy across the school year, identifying liturgical seasons, key celebrations and opportunities for the

celebration of the Sacraments;

- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability;
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation and progressively take an active role in planning, preparing, leading and evaluating prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity;
- appropriate resources are readily available to staff and pupils;
- new staff receive appropriate induction and staff have access to effective training and formation;
- prayer and liturgy are monitored and evaluated regularly and this informs future planning;
- monitoring 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, and liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others as appropriate.

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

The detailed pattern for each academic year is set out in the school's Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Liturgy. For 2026-2027, provision includes the following:

Prayer and Liturgy	When does this take place?	What happens during this time?
Staff Prayer	Monday 08:15; Thursday 15:30	Short prayer/reflection linked to the weekly Gospel theme or the needs of staff.
Daily Prayer	Various times during the school day	Morning Prayer • Grace Before Meals • End-of-Day Prayer. Class prayer spaces reflect the liturgical season.
Celebration of the Word	Wed 09:15 KS2; Thu 13:00 EYFS/KS1; Fri 13:30 EYFS/KS1 & 14:00 KS2	Gather • Listen • Respond • Go Forth. Wed/Thu teacher and class led; Friday led by SLT.
Prayer & Reflection	Mon, Tue; Wed EYFS/KS1; Thu KS2	Scripture, sacred silence and prayer linked to the weekly Gospel focus. Includes songs of praise and Visio Divina.
Parish Mass	Monday 9:00, approximately every 3 weeks	Led by the Parish Priest; altar servers serve; parishioners and parents are welcomed.

Weekly pattern

The weekly pattern is centred on the Gospel. Monday's Golden Box Celebration of the Word reveals the weekly Gospel theme through a symbol or objects and concludes with a mission. Tuesday uses Songs of Praise/Praise Party. On Wednesday, KS2 celebrates the Word while EYFS/KS1 uses Visio Divina; on Thursday this pattern is reversed. On Friday, SLT leads Celebration of the Word, drawing together the Gospel journey and sending pupils out with a clear Gospel mission.

Pupil participation

Pupil participation develops progressively from EYFS to Year 6. In EYFS, children participate in teacher-led Celebration of the Word through simple responses and by choosing or holding symbols. Across Key Stage 1, pupils increasingly help with welcomes, symbols, prayer responses and Go Forth actions. From Year 3, pupils begin to plan elements of Gather, Respond and Go Forth. By Years 4 and 5, pupils take increasingly regular and independent leadership roles. By Year 6, pupils increasingly plan, lead and evaluate Celebration of the Word with appropriate independence.

Common prayer

The Annual Plan Of Provision sets out an age-appropriate progression in common prayer. This begins with the Sign of the Cross and simple spontaneous prayer in EYFS and develops through prayers including the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostles' Creed, Act of Contrition, Angel of God, Come Holy Spirit, the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester, Morning Offering, the Rosary, the Magnificat and the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love.

Masses, Sacraments and seasonal celebrations

The Annual Plan of Provision identifies school Masses, sacramental opportunities, services and other prayer opportunities across the liturgical and school year. For 2026-2027 these include, as set out in the APOP, celebrations connected with All Saints, Remembrance, Advent, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, Ascension and Pentecost, Saints Peter and Paul, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and the Year 6 Leavers' Mass.

The nature and organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy may take place in classrooms, the school hall, outdoors or in other appropriate settings. It may involve a class, year group or key stage.

Provision should:

- be appropriate to the age, ability and experience of pupils;
- draw appropriately on Scripture, sacred silence, prayer, music, symbols, artefacts and other suitable forms of response;
- create an atmosphere of prayer, reverence and participation;
- reflect the Church's liturgical seasons and significant celebrations;
- enable pupils to participate consciously and actively, with increasing leadership according to age and capacity;

- be planned and evaluated so that the quality and impact of provision continue to develop.

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school. Appropriate resources will therefore be made available, including staff time and suitable spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected through religious artefacts and images displayed throughout the building. Focus tables reflect the Church's liturgical seasons. Staff training and formation will be supported so that staff can fulfil their responsibilities for the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Training and formation

All new staff will be supported through induction and beyond so that they understand the responsibility they carry within their role for prayer and liturgy. Individual training needs will be identified and addressed through appropriate training and formation. Whole-staff professional development will be provided so that staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and are supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and evaluation

The quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will be monitored and evaluated regularly and at least annually. Areas for development will inform future planning and whole-school improvement.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the Governing Body. The Annual Plan of Provision will provide the detailed operational pattern for each academic year and should be updated accordingly.

Signed: A. Carr

Signed: K. Nolan

Position: RE Lead

Position: Chair of Governors