St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

The Catholic Diocese of Lancaster

Our Mission Statement:

"Sharing Our Faith, Inspiring Education, Achieving Our Dreams"

"Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations.
And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, we celebrate that we are all unique and loved by God. With Christ at the centre of all we do, we strive to unlock each child's potential to become the individual they are created to be. We are working together to build a community built on love, faith, forgiveness and service.

Approved by ____J. Murphy (Headteacher) Date: __November 2026_____

Approved by Governing Body/Committee: __SMSC_____ Date: _November 2026_____

Next review date: _November 2028_____

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

We believe that prayer and liturgy, in a Catholic school, names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'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)).

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. The Place of Prayer and liturgy in the Life of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Prayer in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We endorse the belief that prayer and liturgy take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in Church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- those from other Christian traditions – or none
- those from other faith backgrounds.

Prayer and liturgy are a part of our school life to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Pupils and staff from other Christian denominations and other religious traditions bring their joys, hopes and sorrows to our times of prayer and liturgy and those of their families and communities. Part of our service to each other is to make those prayerful intentions our own.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School respects the integrity of our non-Christian pupils and we refrain from asking them to say the responses and prayers, to sing or to perform gestures (for example, making the sign

of the cross) that do not correspond to their own faith. This is in line with guidance in *The Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To love You more dearly*.

4. 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 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 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 school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

• prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of 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 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 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.

5. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision at The Cathedral Catholic Primary School

(a) Organisation

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Whole school Celebration of the Word 2:45pm	The Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies - KS2 12:45pm Child led Celebration of the Word - KS1	Key Stage Celebration of the Word KS2 – 2:45pm The Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies – KS1	Key Stage Celebration of the Word KS1 – 2:45pm Child led Celebration of the Word – KS2	Whole school Celebration Assembly 9.00am

The following structure is followed for Celebration of the Word:

- Gather
- Word of God
- Respond
- Mission / Send

Prayer and liturgy themes always follow the liturgical seasons.

Other times of prayer and liturgy in the school year include:

Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year - with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Mass to celebrate The Epiphany – with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Mass to celebrate Easter – with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Celebration of special Feast Days – with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Harvest Celebration – with the whole school and parents in the school hall

Mass to celebrate the start of Advent – with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Ash Wednesday service - with school, parishioners and parents in the school hall

Mass to celebrate the Year 6 leavers – Year 6, their families and parishioners in Church

Mass to celebrate the end of the School Year – with the whole school, parents and parishioners in the school hall

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Calendar of Prayer

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Ordinary Time	Advent	Christmas / Ordinary Time	Lent	Eastertide	Ordinary Time
Liturgy	Monday – Celebration of the Word Tuesday – KS2 – Mark 10 Little Liturgies. KS1 – Child led Celebration of the Word Wednesday – KS2 – Key Stage Liturgy. KS1- Mark 10 Little Liturgies Thursday – KS2 - Child led Celebration of the Word. KS1 - Key Stage Liturgy Friday – Celebration Assembly					
Liturgical feast days and seasons		All Saints Remembrance Christ the King Advent	Epiphany Baptism of the Lord Presentation of the Lord	Ash Wednesday Lent Palm Sunday and Holy Week	Eastertide Ascension of the Lord Pentecost	Corpus Christi St Peter and Paul
Prayers to Introduce (linked to RE curriculum)	EY/Y1/Y2 – Sign of the Cross, morning, lunch and end of the day prayers Our Father, Hail Mary LKS2 – The Rosary, Eternal Rest, Act of Contrition UKS2 – The Apostle's Creed					
School Masses	Beginning of Year Mass	Advent Mass	Epiphany Mass	Ash Wednesday Service Start of Lent Mass	Ascension Thursday	St Peter & Paul Y6 Leaver's Mass End of School year Mass
Other opportunity for Prayer	Harvest	Remembrance Service Jesse Tree Nativity – EY/KS1 Christingle		Stations of the Cross Holy Week reflections	Rosary	Corpus Christi

(b) Voluntary Prayer and Liturgy

The following opportunities are available for pupils to volunteer to participate in:

Lunchtime prayer group – for different year groups led by pupils.

(c) Pupil Leadership in Prayer and Liturgy

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the planning and delivery of prayer and liturgy in class and Key Stage assemblies. These usually take the form of a Celebration of the Word. In Key Stage 1, pupils may assist the class teacher in selecting appropriate resources (e.g. focus, music, artwork, prayers) to fit with a given theme. As children progress through Key Stage 2, they take more responsibility for planning and leading class and Key Stage prayer and liturgy using a whole school planning and recording system. Groups are assisted in planning a Celebration of the Word by the class teacher using the current Sunday's Gospel/Monthly value as a starting point or a Scripture passage linked to RE learning.

(d) Recording

Class Celebration of the Word is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, activities and pupil involvement.
- through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc which are kept in the children's RE books.

6. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to 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 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 school.

7. 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 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.

8. 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.