

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Source:	Shrewsbury Diocese
Adapted by:	Mrs. L. James
Approved by:	SIC
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Our School's Mission

To place Christ at the center of all we do in order to inspire our young people to enable them to 'have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

We do this by daily living our School's Values of: Service, Compassion, Forgiveness and Truth so that 'Heart speaks to Heart' (St. John Henry Newman)

Our long term vision and objectives for Cardinal Newman Catholic High School are:

- To develop students' spirituality and morality, founded upon the teachings of the Catholic Church, in order to equip our students to make wise decisions throughout their lives
- To deliver high quality teaching of our aspirational and relevant curriculum to ensure all students make good progress and are able to pursue their future goals as a result
- Develop determined, optimistic students who are ambitious for their futures and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to maximise the opportunities available to them
- Develop emotionally literate, caring young people who are resilient and able to cope with the challenges of life, and support those around them to do the same
- To be a school in which all students make impressive progress, regardless of any barriers to learning, supported by highly effective programmes designed to overcome any obstacles to their success
- A community with high morale, to which all stakeholders are proud to belong

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 Chaplain)
- 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/Head of School

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) Chaplain and Formation Team

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 is central to the life of the school. There is a clear calendar which sets out the events for the whole year so that all staff and students are aware of the opportunities provided. There are specific opportunities in keeping with the seasons of the liturgical calendar, but also a regular rhythm to our days and our weeks that anchor our community.

Our week always begins with staff prayer on a Monday, led by different staff and responding to the liturgical calendar and specific current events to offer spiritual focus for the week ahead. Staff are also invited to staff prayer each Wednesday at 8.15am in the school chapel.

Form time on three days concludes with our commissioning where our students join in prayer with their form tutor in the final minutes of the session and are given their mission for the week ahead, linked to the liturgical theme of the week.

For one morning each week, each year group will have a Celebration of the Word, which is also based on this liturgical theme, drawn from Sunday's gospel.

For one morning each week, the whole form time is given over to prayer. This alters in keeping with the liturgical calendar. In October and May, this takes the form of the rosary, whereas at other times students spend a number of weeks focused on Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, Prayers of Intention and the Examen alongside meditation. Each year, these varied opportunities are chosen to reflect the focus of the season.

Students also say a grace before meals at the end of period 4, and an end of the day prayer at the end of period 5.

The whole school comes together on our Feast Day (October 9th), to celebrate whole school Mass. There is also a whole school service at the end of term to mark Advent and Lent, and a parents' service to mark each season. There is a specific Mass to welcome Year 7 in September, alongside their parents and carer's and primary headteachers. Additionally, each form has a patron, and we mark each patron's Feast Day with a Mass in form time. There is also a half termly opportunity for community Mass at 8.15am where students, parents, staff and the parish community can join for Mass before school.

In addition, the sacrament of reconciliation is offered on Ash Wednesday, and there are a number of services on key dates in the liturgical calendar including the Ascension, the Annunciation, the Epiphany, Pentecost.

The Annual Plan of Provision provides specific, annual detail of this provision

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. These are in communal spaces, such as corridors, specific areas including our chapel and auditorium and prayer tables in every classroom which are adapted to reflect the seasons of the liturgical calendar. Staff training and formation costs will be funded 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.

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.