



**Our Lady of the Assumption  
Catholic Primary School**



**Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

**Our Mission Statement :**

**'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)**

Agreed by Governors on: 14 January 2026

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Chair of Governors

To be reviewed : January 2027

**Safeguarding Statement :**

***Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.***

**Our School Vision**

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to developing independent, successful and confident children who have high aspirations, who gain a sense of achievement and leave our school with a wealth of happy memories.

**Our Values and Ethos**

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

**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 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 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**

Each week there is a whole school Mission assembly led by the Headteacher.

Pupils attend Mass as a whole school on a regular basis.

There is a daily pattern of prayers at the start of the day, before meals, after meals and at the end of the school day.

Children from Reception to Year 6 are taught to plan and lead prayer times. The expectations for child led prayer and liturgy are given in Appendix A. This takes place on the weeks when the children are not attending Mass.

Pupils receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of each term.

Special Liturgical celebrations:

- Foundation Stage & KS1 perform a Christmas plays reflect the story of the Nativity. Parents, families and parishioners are invited.
- Key stage 2 pupils are involved in the presentation of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Year 4 lead the Easter Reflection. It is a deeply moving and spiritual experience for all and is used as a teaching tool during Holy Week.
- The Chaplaincy Team lead the May Procession.

The Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) is a more detailed plan of the provision over the year.

## **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.

## **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.

OLA Child-Led Prayer and Liturgy

Class prayer times to take place weekly.

Each half term the class teacher will model planning and delivering an age-appropriate prayer time in order to introduce a new element to the children. The children will then take a lead (in groups) for subsequent weeks.

Children will learn how to choose a theme and lead a Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth format, however, creativity with their approach is encouraged, with the ultimate ambition that children are all given the opportunity to develop their relationship with God.

Teachers and children will be supported with planning varied and creative class prayer by using the **Let Us Pray 2Gether** resource.

**These expectations are progressive: each year group will build upon the knowledge that has gone before** until children are confident to fully lead prayer and liturgy for their peers.

<b>EYFS</b>	Children will choose the colour of cloth to match the season. Children will choose from a selection of items (naming the item) which are appropriate to the season and place them on the prayer focus. Children will be encouraged to say why they have chosen an item. The children will learn Come and Join the Circle, Gather Gather and Share the Light and choose which one to use when gathering together.
<b>Year 1</b>	Children will choose from a small selection of songs linked to the theme to sing during Prayer and Liturgy. Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will choose from 3 options, how to respond to the liturgy.
<b>Year 2</b>	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will choose from 3 readings linked to the theme. Children will read the reading or present using drama. Children will choose from 3 options, how to call their classmates to action through the Mission.
<b>Year 3</b>	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will use the Word Cards to choose from up to 5 readings linked to the theme. Children will choose ideas from up to 5 Gather, Word, Respond and Mission cards for their Prayer and Liturgy.
<b>Year 4</b>	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children will use the Word Cards to choose an appropriate reading linked to their chosen theme. Children will choose ideas from the full range of Gather, Word, Respond and Mission cards for their Prayer and Liturgy.
<b>Year 5</b>	Using Let Us Pray 2Gether, children to select from the See, Hear, Think, Do cards to link to their chosen theme and reading. Children to decide which part of the liturgy they would fit.
<b>Year 6</b>	Children to select their own theme and scripture reading (Let Us Pray 2Gether, Gold and Silver Word Cards).