



St Nicholas Catholic High School

Prayer and Liturgy (Collective Worship) Policy

Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
2020	2021	Collective Worship replaced with Prayer and Liturgy Inclusion of Sacred Space Ambassadors
2022	2021	Inclusion of new Mission Statement Removal of Covid implications
2024	2023	Renamed Prayer & Liturgy Policy The policy has had significant amends made in line with the new Published Prayer and Liturgy Directory 'To love you more dearly' 2023. Numbers of each sections added to ease reading.

Policy Impact Statement	
Policy:	
This Policy has been implemented:	
Fully	✓
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
What revisions need to be made:	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

School Ethos, Prayer and Liturgy Policy

1. Guiding Principles

‘The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable to 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).

This St. Nicholas Catholic High School Policy is rooted in the School Mission Statement which makes explicit the Christian Values on which the School is based and the sacredness and worth of each individual in the School community. As a Catholic school we centre our mission on the person of Jesus Christ and we recognise the Spirit of the Risen Christ present and alive throughout the school community and in all aspects of school life: curriculum, pastoral care, religious life and personal formation. Jesus Christ is central to the life of St. Nicholas Catholic High School.

It is essential that each member of the School community is encouraged to search for and appreciate their own potential and their place in the world. Through this we come to appreciate other people that we come into contact with as well as developing an awareness of the wider community. Understanding the unique part that we have to play allows us to experience a sense of awe and wonder in the world that surrounds us and to celebrate this through reflection, prayer and worship. We recognise the presence of God in every person and in the world around us.

Catholic ethos places a high expectation on all of the community to ‘be the best’ by encouraging high standards of behaviour, sense of fairness and manners. The School is committed to playing an important role in the building of a strong cohesive community by developing a critical sense of right and wrong and the ability to take responsibility for their actions. The respect demonstrated between students and staff is crucial for this.

Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of the Pastoral Curriculum programme. Prayer and Liturgy should be relevant to student’s experiences, involve them as participants and foster a sense of community within the school.

Prayer and Liturgy should be linked to the Catholic liturgical calendar and key events of the year (e.g. Ash Wednesday) and allow students to reflect on Catholic Social Teaching and the mission of our school.

The Catholic Church defines prayer as, “...the raising of one’s mind and heart to God, or the requesting of good things from God.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2259). Prayer does not always have to be vocal it can be meditative and contemplative. Prayer can also have several purposes:

- Adoration – giving praise to God

- Confession- asking for forgiveness
- Thanksgiving – giving thanks to God for His goodness
- Supplication – asking for God’s help

2. Mission statement

Here at St Nicholas we let our God-given talents shine.

We believe all students should enjoy their learning and achieve their potential, striving at all times to embrace the Gospel and its teachings.

Our school environment is built upon trust and respect for each other. We embrace our differences and celebrate what it means to be part of God’s family.

Everyone Matters.

3. Responsibilities

The Governing Body: The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school’s life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- To ensure an inclusive caring, learning environment for the spiritual and moral development across the School.
- Prayer and liturgy are central to Catholic life of the school
- To ensure the School is actively involved in the building of a strong cohesive community that sets high standards of social and moral responsibility.
- To monitor school’s self evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy and monitor performance.
- There is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school
- 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.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

- To maintain the School and Catholic ethos so that it permeates across all aspects of the curriculum.
- To ensure Prayer and Liturgy will be made accessible to the needs of all students.
- To provide support and guidance for staff through inset days, staff training and ongoing provision of appropriate and accessible resources.
- To be responsible for the oversight and evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy within school
- To ensure the School will engage with extra-curricular and community projects that encourage moral responsibility and high standards of behaviour.
- To provide retreat opportunities for students to explore faith and related issues.

- To ensure the School involves itself with charitable works that follow Catholic Social Teaching to support the most vulnerable individuals and communities, locally and globally.

Year Leaders

- To celebrate through Mass, liturgical prayer and retreats, pertinent moments in the life of the School including Mass to welcome Year 7, St Nicholas Day and Mass for leavers. Where possible these will be enhanced by the inclusion of music, dance and other forms of creative expression.
- To be responsible for the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy during assemblies and to monitor the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy within their year group.
- To empower and strengthen students' skills in their own planning and delivery of assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy.
- to engage students in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching across the academic, pastoral and spiritual elements of school life
- To encourage students to fulfil their role as Sacred Space Ambassadors

The Chaplain

- To support the Catholic Ethos and worship across the school by working with staff and students and by providing appropriate and accessible resources.
- To lead, support and celebrate the various seasons of the Liturgical Year through a variety of personal and Prayer and Liturgy opportunities.
- To work with Priests and local parishes to complement the Catholic ethos and as part of our Prayer and Liturgy.
- To ensure the Chapel will be a focus for individual and group opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- To provide students and staff with voluntary opportunities for spiritual growth through voluntary Masses, prayer and spiritual workshops.
- To liaise with outside agencies and the Diocese to support the Gospel values of the School.
- To empower and strengthen students' skills in their own planning and delivery of assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy.
- To engage students in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching across the academic, pastoral and spiritual elements of school life.
- To encourage students to fulfil their role as Sacred Space Ambassadors and support and encourage students leadership in this role

- Students 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.
- 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
- Liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

Teaching and Support Staff

- To engage in and support the ethos of the School.
- All students will regularly participate in daily acts of Prayer and Liturgy either during assembly or during their form time “Sacred Space”.
- Form tutors will be responsible for the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy in their form time.
- To empower and strengthen students’ skills in their own planning and delivery of assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy.
- To engage students in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching across the academic, pastoral and spiritual elements of school life.
- To act as witness to Gospel values to all who visit the School.
- To celebrate success, qualities, gifts and talents.
- To value their conduct and respect and towards students.

4. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Spiritual Development

As part of their spiritual development, students will have opportunities to:

- develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- express their beliefs, feelings, values and ideas
- experience times of reflection and prayer
- consider, prepare and lead in expressions of prayer and reflection
- form and maintain worthwhile and healthy relationships
- reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- value the spiritual beliefs of others

Spiritual development is promoted through:

- the ethos and values of the School witnessed to by staff and students
- assemblies and opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy
- masses and religious celebrations
- extra-curricular opportunities in the community
- the Religious Education curriculum
- School Mission days
- Sacred Space Ambassadors, the School Mission Team Participation in the Faith in Action programme
- Spiritual and Moral Education (SME): both theory in lessons and practical in voluntary contributions in the community
- annual retreats
- Sacred Space Ambassadors

Moral Development

As part of their moral development, students will learn to:

- understand the difference between right and wrong
- promote forgiveness and reconciliation
- be reflective of their behaviour
- listen and respond appropriately and respectfully to the views of others
- respect people, truth and property
- understand the consequences of actions and consider how their actions may affect others
- make responsible judgements on moral issues
- take responsibility for their own actions and learn from mistakes show respect for the environment

Students' moral development is promoted through:

- staff and senior students acting as role models
- high expectations for behaviour both in lessons and around the School
- the use of rewards and sanctions
- School Mission Days
- weekly assembly themes
- fundraising for a range of charities
- Sacred Space Ambassadors, , Student Council and Student Leadership Team
- Internet safety

Social Development

As part of their social development, students will have opportunities to:

- help others in the School and wider community
- peer mentoring
- understand how individuals relate to each other
- participate in a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- make a personal contribution to group activities
- understand how societies function and are organised

Social development is promoted through:

- classroom organisation and management
- opportunities for group work both in and out of the classroom
- Sacred Space Ambassadors, Student Council and Student Leadership Team
- trips and visits
- charity fundraising
- work experience
- extra-curricular activities (including sport, drama and music)
- sports days
- the work of Sacred Space Ambassadors

Cultural Development

As part of their cultural development, students will have opportunities to:

- recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain
- develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European and global dimensions
- understand beliefs, customs, values, knowledge and skills which form the basis for identity and cohesion in society
- develop their cultural interests and appreciation for Art and Music
- understand the diversity of culture in society

Cultural development is promoted through:

- visits abroad
- trips to galleries and museums
- external speakers and visitors
- Art, Music and MFL curriculums
- the programme of extra-curricular activities

5. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision:

Daily Prayers: Our school community aims to encounter Jesus every day at school. Prayer is very important to our faith community. Students and Staff have the opportunity to encounter Jesus in prayer every day through the following:

- Sacred Space- at the end of all form periods forms pray together. This is resourced through the form prayers written by students in RE at the beginning of the academic year or through resources produced by the school Chaplain.
- All staff meetings begin with prayer
- Every Friday staff can attend an optional staff prayer or Mass before school

Liturgies: Whole school liturgies are provided at the end of each term. With the support of our clergy, Mass is celebrated termly. Masses are also offered throughout the academic year in the school chapel and on Holy Days of obligation.

Masses to celebrate specific school events such as the Year 11, Year 13 Leavers Mass and Year 7 Welcome Mass are organised to demonstrate that Christ is at the centre of everything we do at St. Nicholas Catholic High School.

Celebrations of the Word:

On Ash Wednesday and other key liturgical events in the year, celebrations of the Word prepared by our School Chaplain and involving students take place.

Assemblies: We have an assembly calendar. Students participate in two assemblies led by either a member of the Senior Leadership Team, a Year Leader or a Form Group. All assemblies end with a prayer.

Chapel Services: Every term every class as part of their RE curriculum have the opportunity to attend a Chapel Service led by our school Chaplain.

6. 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. Each form room has a dedicated prayer space, and 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.

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 the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and address through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year at our Catholic Ethos inset day, 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: students, parents, staff, clergy and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

9. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

10. Definitions (Taken from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023)

Prayer: has been traditionally described as ‘lifting up of the hearts and minds to God’, which means it involves our whole person- our head as well as our heart. These can be structured or traditional, (Example: The Lord’s Prayer) or extempore

Celebrations of the Word: celebrations which are created for the school community and not directly taken from the liturgical books of the church. (Example: Assemblies, Carol Services)

Liturgy: A formal act of the Church. (Example: Mass)

Reviewed & approved by: Mission & Ethos Committee	Date: 15 th February 2024
Review of Policy Due By	Date: Lent 2025