



St Nicholas
Catholic High School

School Ethos, Prayer and
Liturgy Policy

Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
2019	2016	
2020	2019	Mention of Pastoral Curriculum (p3) Empower and engage students in CW as part of YL, FT and Chaplain role (p4/5) Addition of student leadership in spiritual development (p5) Citizenship Days replaced by Mission Days (p5/6) Addition of School Leadership Team (p6) Addendum for COVID-19 (p7)
2020	2021	Collective Worship replaced with Prayer and Liturgy Inclusion of Sacred Space Ambassadors

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

Guiding Principles

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.

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.

Mission statement

We aspire to embrace the Gospel and its values, celebrating uniqueness and diversity. Our learning, within an enterprise culture, is based upon trust and respect which define our relationships within the world family. Everyone Matters.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body

- To ensure an inclusive caring, learning environment for the spiritual and moral development across 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.

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

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.

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
- half termly assembly themes
- fundraising for a range of charities
- Sacred Space Ambassadors, the School Mission Team, 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, the School Mission Team ,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

Addendum – COVID 19 – September 2021

In light of restrictions due to COVID 19 guidelines and regulations, there may be times when events and religious services (retreat days, annual Masses) will have to be cancelled or postponed.

Every effort will be made to reschedule or to create a comparable experience for students and staff.

Alongside the on-line and remote learning resources for students there will be accessible resources for Prayer and Liturgy and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development both in school and at home.

Resources will be provided to students in line with our Remote Learning Policy guidance.

The school will make every effort to respond to the particular pastoral and spiritual needs and issues caused by the pandemic in the best way possible.

Reviewed by: Mission & Ethos Committee	Date: 4 th November 2021
Ratified by Governing Body	Date: 9 th December 2021
Review of Policy Due By	Date: October 2022