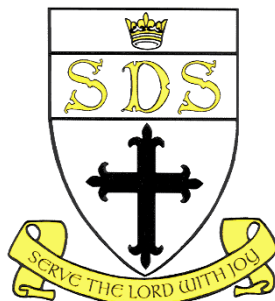


ST DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Name of Policy:	Prayer and Liturgy Policy
Date Adopted:	22 nd January 2025
Responsible Person:	Headteacher
Approval	Full Governing Board
Review Date:	Spring 2026
Signed By:	Laura Hulland Headteacher
Signature:	
Date:	
Signed By:	Fiona Cottle Chair of Governors
Signature:	
Date:	



Prayer and Liturgy Policy Changes

Version	Status	Change Detail	Author	Date
1		New Policy	Laura Hulland	Jan 2025

Our Vision

Our Catholic Mission is to ensure the Gospel values are reflected in all aspects of the school's life, in the classroom and playground and in the relationships between the pupils, the school staff, school governors, parents and the wider community.

We are a caring Catholic community serving the Lord with joy. The greatest commandment is to love God and love one another.

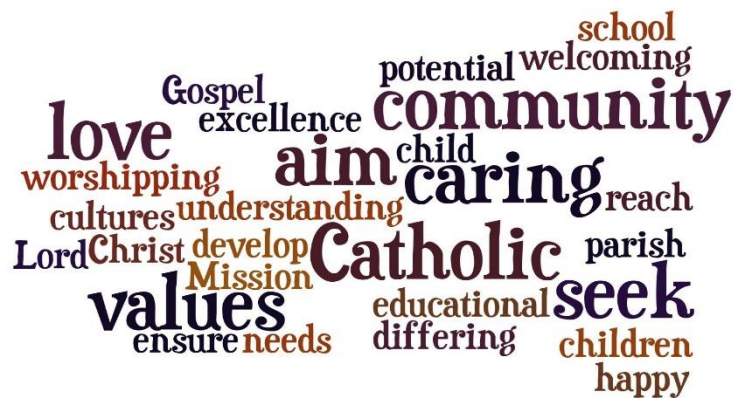
"The school's religious ethos is deep rooted, with all pupils feeling included within it."
(Ofsted, February 2020)

Mission Statement



Our Mission Statement

SERVE THE LORD WITH JOY



We love Jesus and the Gospel values inspire and guide us.

Happy, welcoming, worshipping and caring community is who we are.

We fulfil each child's potential, developing tomorrow's talent, today!

Home, parish and school working together.

We are all God's children and respect everyone.

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.)

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.

Responsibility

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.

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.

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 (CASO) and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be open to the whole school community and opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice.

- We celebrate Mass for the whole school each term and on special Feast Days and Holy days.
- Key Stage Two classes celebrate Mass in Church
- We celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for Year 3 pupils and their families after they have made their First Holy Communion
- Pupils take an active part in Mass through reading, serving and singing.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Advent and Lent an emphasis is placed upon the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In Lent there is a Penitential Service held in school for all pupils. After this KS2 pupils have the opportunity to go to Confession in St. John Bosco Church.

During Advent we hold a Reconciliation Service for all pupils in school. This provides time to reflect and say sorry to God.

Weekly Celebrations of the Word

- We have a whole school Celebration of the Word Assembly on Mondays each week linked to the Sunday Gospel reading.
- We have weekly whole class Celebration of the Word. These are based on the Sunday Gospel and scripture readings of the day. One is Teacher led and the other is led by the Junior Chaplains.
- We have a weekly whole school hymn practice and use this as an opportunity to celebrate the word through singing – linking hymns to the liturgical season, Mass and the Sunday gospel.

Sanctus Locus

- The focus for this prayer area changes every half term and reflects the liturgical season. Pupils have an opportunity to visit in small groups or individually.

Daily Prayer

- A daily cycle of prayers are said in each class throughout the school day (eg, in the morning, before and after meals, and at the end of the school day).
- We say additional prayers to our daily cycle of prayer as we move through the liturgical year, eg, sorry prayers in advent and lent, eternal rest in November, Rosary in October

Prayer and Liturgy through the Liturgical Year

We plan and provide additional opportunities for prayer and liturgy across the liturgical year. We plan these each term with our Prayer and Liturgy Team and endeavour to include opportunities for the whole school community.

Examples include:

- October – Rosary
- November – Remembrance
- Advent– Jesse Tree, Nativities, Travelling Posadas
- January – Feast of St. John Bosco
- Lent – Prayer bags, Stations of the Cross
- May – Month of Mary, May Procession, Feast of St. Dominic Savio

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.

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.

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.

Review

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