

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Executive Headteacher Mrs N Damms

Date of Agreement March 2023

Date for Review March 2025

Version 3

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Approved by:
O Finnegan and
L Rouledge

Date:

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March 2023

Next review due by:
March 2025

Magnificat Vision

- We magnify the God given talents of all our pupils
- We rejoice in working together to improve the life chances of our pupils
- We serve our communities through prayer and action
- We grow the Catholic Leaders of tomorrow

Magnificat Aims

Respect

We uphold the dignity of humanity in all that we do. It is of paramount importance across our family of schools that every person in our communities is recognised, acknowledged, and respected for their God given individuality and are embraced with the love of Christ.

Integrity

**“Have life and have it to the full.”
John 10:10**

We aim to be completely transparent in all that we do. We are guided by ethical principles in all our work ranging from resources management to the development of our people.

Service

Inspired by Our Lady's service to God, we bear witness to the Gospel and provide an enriching encounter with Christ for all our communities. Our schools aim to serve our parishes and all in our communities regardless of background or faith. We also commit to nurturing a sense of service and vocation amongst our staff, children, and young people.

Excellence

We aspire to be the highest performing Catholic Multi-Academy in the country as we recognise that the quality of education provided by our schools will determine the life chances of our young people.

School's Mission Statement

With Christ at the heart of our Catholic community, our mission is to:

- **Nurture the potential in each individual,**
- **Celebrate achievement,**
- **And develop an awareness of service to God and each other.**

Introduction

At English Martyrs, Prayer and Liturgy and sacramental experiences are integral to developing the pupil's relationship with Christ. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre.

Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for us to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life.

At English Martyrs we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the faith community of our school and to the wider church.

**“Have life and have it to the full.”
John 10:10**

Pupils take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. We believe worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives. It celebrates his presence amongst us today and allows pupils and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him.

In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, collective worship, meditation and liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the pupils to develop their relationship with God. Pupils are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, ***does not fulfil this requirement***. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well-established Safeguarding procedures.

The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or Church.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

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At English Martyrs, we ensure that prayer and liturgy is inclusive to all members of the school community. Students with SEND are supported and encouraged to participate fully in all everything. The school work closely with the local Parish and community within Hillmorton to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy in school life is shared and lived out within the community. During the academic year, all pupils engage in a multicultural education unit where they explore a variety of religions and cultures. Throughout the year, holy days and festival from world religions are recognised within our Catholic Life Planner, providing an opportunity for pupils of other faiths to share their faith with peers.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Prayer and Liturgy in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aim of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience

“Have life and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out ‘to wonder at’, ‘to come to terms with’ and ‘to give worth to.’

Principles

All Prayer and Liturgy is carefully formulated, regularly reviewed and fit for purpose.

All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, liturgical celebrations will:

- include well-chosen Scripture passages that are informed by the liturgical season
- include symbol, silence, meditation, reflection and liturgical music
- offer participants a wide range of engaging and creative experiences of the breadth and richness of the Catholic tradition
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings
- reflect and draw upon events that are prominent in the news, either at a local, national or international level, when appropriate.

School Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy:

Type	Involves	Frequency	Location	Lead
Gospel Assembly	KS1 & 2	Every Monday - pm	Hall	Head
Morning Prayer	All Classes	Daily 9 am (unless in hall)	In Class	Teacher/Prayer Leader
Grace Before & After Meals	All Classes	Daily Before and After Lunch	In Class	Teacher/Prayer Leader
Evening Prayer	All Classes	Daily End of Day	In Class	Teacher/Prayer Leader

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Class Prayer and Liturgy	All Classes	Once a week	In Class	Children under teacher guidance
Mass of Commission	Rec-Y6	Annually	In Church	Parish Priest and RE Team
Special Mass with Parish	Rec-Y6	Timetabled Through Year E.g. Feast Days/ Holy Day of Obligation/ Start of School Year etc.	In Church	Parish Priest, RE Team and Parishioners
Thursday Class and Parish Mass	Rec-Y6	Weekly As Per Timetable	In Church	PP (Children Prayers of the Faithful)
Celebration Prayer and Liturgy – Theme RE Curric/ Liturgical Year	Rec-Y6	As Per Timetable (One Per Year)Autumn and Spring Friday am/pm	Junior Hall	Class
Weekly Friday Celebration	Rec-Y6	Every Week	Infant/ Junior Hall	SLT
Quiet Liturgy and Confession	KS1	During Advent and Lent	J Hall and Class	SLT and Class Teachers
Stations of the Cross	KS2	Annually Lent Towards Holy Week	In Church	SLT and RE Team

Our Lady of the Magnificat collaborative Prayer and Liturgy and Sacramental events:

Term	Special Dedications/ Wider Themes
Autumn 1	Start of School Year Education Sunday – Good Attendance and Punctuality – Value Education (2 nd Sunday September)St Teresa of Calcutta (5 th September) World Day of Prayer for Day of Creation - Environment Harvest Fast Day Preparation (Last Sunday of September) St Francis of Assisi (4 th October) Mental Health Day (10 th October)Month of the Rosary (October) St John Henry Newman (9 th October)Black History Month (October)

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Autumn 2	All Saints and All Souls – (1 st and 2 nd November) Remembrance Sunday (Closest to 11 th November) Universal Children Day (20 th November) St Andrew (30 th November) Advent – Getting Ready Gaudete Sunday (3 rd Sunday of Advent)
Spring 1	Epiphany – Gifts to God/ New Year’s Resolution (6 th January) Baptism of the Lord (1 st Sunday OT) World Peace Day (2 nd Sunday OT) Conversion of St Paul (25 th Jan) St Josephine Bakhita – Abolition of Slavery (8 th Feb) World Day of the Sick/ Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (11 th Feb)
Spring 2	Lent – Charity CAFOD Family Fast Day (Follows 1 st Sunday of Lent) St David (1 st March) International Women’s Day (8 th March) St Patrick (17 th March) International Day of Happiness (20 th March) St Oscar Romero (24 th March) Lent – Prayer and Moving to Holy Week
Summer 1	Season of Easter St George (23 rd April) 3 rd Sunday of Easter – The Road to Emmaus 4 th Sunday of Easter – The Good Shepherd Month of Mary (May) Mary Procession and Rosary

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Summer 2	Trinity Sunday & Corpus Christi (13 th June) Fathers' Day (Third Sunday of June) SS Peter and Paul (29 th June) Reflections on the end of the School Year Staying safe over the summer
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Whole School Prayer and Liturgy Themes (each week, we link to the Gospel of the Sunday before):

Term	CSP P	Special Dedications/ Wider Themes
Autumn 1		Start of School Year Education Sunday – Good Attendance and Punctuality – Value Education (2 nd Sunday September) St Teresa of Calcutta (5 th September) World Day of Prayer for Day of Creation - Environment Harvest Fast Day Preparation (Last Sunday of September) St Francis of Assisi (4 th October) Mental Health Day (10 th October) Month of the Rosary (October) St John Henry Newman (9 th October) Black History Month (October)
Autumn 2		All Saints and All Souls – Beatitudes (1 st and 2 nd November) Remembrance Sunday (Closest to 11 th November) Universal Children Day (20 th November) St Andrew (30 th November) Advent – Getting Ready Human Rights Day – Migrants Day, Amnesty and Prisoners of Conscience (10 th December) Gaudete Sunday (3 rd Sunday of Advent)

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Spring 1	Epiphany – Gifts to God/ New Year’s Resolution (6 th January) Baptism of the Lord (1 st Sunday OT) World Peace Day (2 nd Sunday OT) Conversion of St Paul (25 th Jan) Holocaust Memorial Day (27 th Jan) St Josephine Bakhita – Abolition of Slavery (8 th Feb) World Day of the Sick/ Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (11 th Feb) World Epilepsy Day (14 th February)
Spring 2	Lent – Charity CAFOD Family Fast Day (Follows 1 st Sunday of Lent) Lent – Taking Action St David (1 st March) International Women’s Day (8 th March) St Patrick (17 th March) International Day of Happiness (20 th March) Lots of Socks Day – Down Syndrome Awareness (21 st March) St Oscar Romero (24 th March) Lent – Prayer and Moving to Holy Week
Summer 1	Season of Easter St George (23 rd April) 3 rd Sunday of Easter – The Road to Emmaus 4 th Sunday of Easter – The Good Shepherd Month of Mary (May) St Anthony’s Sports Week (Last School Week of May) Pentecost
Summer 2	Trinity Sunday & Corpus Christi St Anthony (13 th June) Fathers’ Day (Third Sunday of June) SS Peter and Paul (29 th June) Reflections on the end of the School Year Staying safe over the summer

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Class/Form Led Prayer and Liturgy Themes:

Term	CSPP	Worship Theme
Autumn 1		
Autumn 2		
Spring 1		
Spring 2		
Summer 1		
Summer 2		

Staff Prayer and Liturgy

Term	CSPP	Worship Theme
Autumn 1		
Autumn 2		
Spring 1		

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Spring 2		
Summer 1		
Summer 2		

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The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- opportunities for children to listen, reflect and be prayerful.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a Catholic Life planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- planning proforma for class/form Prayer and Liturgy
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher and RE Coordinator are responsible for the monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy within their own settings. Within each school's monitoring calendar, other members of staff and pupils will be involved in monitoring, in addition to regular monitoring conducted by the Catholic Life and Mission Director/Catholic Mission Governor. Monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy forms a focus in termly Governors' meetings. Monitoring includes: reviewing prayer spaces, observing acts of prayer and worship, observing liturgy, conducting staff, parent and pupil interviews.

Resources

Artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, a set of resources to support child led Prayer and Liturgy, a full set of text books and age-appropriate Bibles will be available for pupils to access and use. Other resources are available in central place, including:

- Posters
- Candles
- CAFOD materials
- Graphic Bibles
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics

Staff and Pupil/Student Retreats, Residentials and Pilgrimages:

During special times, such as, Advent and Lent, there will be opportunities for voluntary prayer and worship. In addition, there are timetabled retreat times through the year.

Retreats included:

Pupil:

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Year Group	Event	
Mini Vinnies	Cluster Retreat – due to commence	R

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school Prayer and Liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to school guidance.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach.

At **Key Stage 1** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word
- whole school, class and year group mass.

At **Key Stage 2** Prayer and Liturgy includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- whole school, class and year group mass.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Mission and Ethos Standards Committee and is evaluated and reviewed by the Board of Directors annually.