



# THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love, we achieve together.

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Policy compiled by:	Head of RE – Megan Cheadle
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Board
Approved by Governing Body:	November 2025
Review Date:	September 2028
Guidance used	DABCEC Guidelines Bishops Conference of England and Wales
<i>This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.</i>	

### Our Mission

I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

*With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love, we achieve together.*

### 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)).

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 Education Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

#### 4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

During our Whole School Gospel Worship, the readings and prayers are led by Year 6 children. During in class Collective Worship, the children are actively encouraged to read readings and prayers. Marist Learner certificates are presented to the children during Wednesday Celebration Worship. Below is an overview of our Collective Worship timetable:

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Worship Format</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Led by</u>
Monday 9.00am	Whole School Gospel Worship	Sunday's Gospel	Head of School
Tuesday 9.00am	Worship through Song	Liturgical focus	Music Lead
Wednesday 9.00am/ 9.40am	Celebration Worship	Sunday's Gospel at KS level	Class teacher
Thursday 9.00am	In Class Collective Worship	Sunday's Gospel at class level	Class teacher
Friday 9.00am	Class Worship to parents Child led liturgy Mass	Curriculum learning Choice of scripture Liturgical focus	Class Group of children Parish Priest

The celebration of Mass is an important part of our spiritual life at The Marist. We aim for Mass to be a community celebration which gathers children, all staff, parents and parishioners. Each Mass is led by a different KS2 class who learn and share the readings and bidding prayers. Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of each term as well as Holy Days of Obligation and other key events in the year of the Church. Whole school Mass is celebrated in our school hall and led by our Parish Priest. Our liturgical calendar is:

<u>Autumn Term</u>	<u>Spring Term</u>	<u>Summer Term</u>
September ❖ New School Year Mass ❖ Education Sunday (Our Lady) ❖ 3M Feast Day ❖ 4T Feast Day	January ❖ Start of Term Mass	April ❖ Easter and Start of Term Mass ❖ 1G Feast Day ❖ 3B Feast Day
October ❖ Harvest Mass ❖ The Rosary ❖ 2F Feast Day ❖ 6L Feast Day	February ❖ Ash Wednesday Liturgy	May ❖ Ascension Day Mass ❖ Marian Mass ❖ The Rosary
November ❖ All Saints Day ❖ Remembrance ❖ 5C Feast Day ❖ 2A Feast Day	March ❖ RD Feast Day ❖ 4P Feast Day ❖ 5J Feast Day ❖ Lent Reconciliation ❖ Paschal Performance ❖ Stations of the Cross	June ❖ Mass for FHC children ❖ 6T Feast Day ❖ St Peter and St Paul Mass ❖ 1P Feast Day
December ❖ EYFS Advent Performance ❖ KS1 Advent Performance ❖ Advent Reconciliation		July ❖ End of year and leavers Mass ❖ RD Feast Day (Summer holidays)

❖ KS2 Advent Service		
❖ Advent Mass		

In addition to our whole school Masses, our KS2 children visit Our Lady's Church for a weekday Mass twice a year. They visit for their class feast day and at another point in the year. At these Masses the children read the bidding prayers and bring up the offertory. Our EYFS and KS1 children celebrate their class feast day with a liturgy in class.

## **5. Our school context**

### **a) Mass**

The celebration of Mass is an important part of our spiritual life at The Marist. We aim for Mass to be a community celebration which gathers together children, all staff, parents and parishioners. Each Mass is led by different children who learn and share the readings and bidding prayers. Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of each term as well as Holy Days of Obligation and other key events in the year of the Church. During our school Masses, the KS2 classes take it in turns to lead. Children who are formed to serve read and altar serve during these Masses. Our Chamber Choir lead our singing during Mass.

### **b) Celebration of the Word Assemblies**

On a Monday, our Headteacher leads our Celebration of the Word assembly. Some of our Year 6 children proclaim the Gospel from Sunday and our Headteacher breaks down this Gospel for the children. A go forth message / action is given to the children which is then followed up upon during Wednesday and Thursday Worship.

### **c) Class Prayer**

We have set times of the day when we pray together as a class: Start of the day, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day. Children are taught to make the Sign of the Cross and know by heart the following prayers: The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the School Prayer. Children are also encouraged to pray the Rosary and learn Mass responses.

### **d) Other sacraments and liturgies**

We offer our KS2 children the opportunity to attend Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. The children are prepared for this during a Worship led by a Catholic member of SLT. This provides the opportunity to remind the children about the importance and process of Reconciliation.

When Ash Wednesday falls during term time, we have a Liturgy or a Mass which is partly led by the children with the support of a Catholic member of SLT and our Parish Priest, with the opportunity to receive ashes. Families and member of the Parish are invited to join our school community for this.

We mark the beginning of Holy Week with a solemn act of Stations of the Cross on the last day of the Spring Term ahead of the Easter break. The Year 6 children lead this for the children and adults in school. A solemn atmosphere is created for the children through lighting and silence. Families are invited to join our school community for this.

### **e) Music**

"Music is integral to liturgy and celebrations of the word...Music highlights or gives prominence to the part of the liturgy where it is used. Therefore, the use of music matches the high points of the liturgy". (PLD 6.2)

- All children are invited to participate fully in leading music during Mass, either through leading actions or singing.
- Music is chosen to ensure that the text and the music fit the context of the liturgy and offer variety to develop a rich musical repertoire
- Priority is given to singing the liturgical texts at Mass which include the Gospel Acclamation and the Mass setting.
- All music and hymns reflect Catholic teaching and understanding of faith.
- Secular music where the text is consistent with Catholic teaching may be used in some forms of prayer assemblies.

## **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. 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 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.

## **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: pupils, 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.