ST. ALOYSIUS' RC COLLEGE HIGHGATE



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

(MARCH 2026)

APPROVED ON.....

CONTEXT 2025-26:

92% BAME

63.4% FSM

26.9% SEND incl 7% EHCP

29% RC (approximately)

31% MUSLIM

27% OTHER CHRISTIAN

3% OTHER FAITH

10% NO FAITH

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. ALOYSIUS' RC COLLEGE:

"I have come that they may have life to the full"

John 10:10

To educate our students in a community where Gospel values are lived.

Gospel values: Courage, Dignity, Forgiveness, Justice

1.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, practises, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic church (Schools standards and Framework Act 1988, 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 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

Worship in the school is totally inclusive which comprises the governing body, the Headteacher, the Chaplain, the RE department in decision making and the collaboration of all staff to uphold the ethos of the school and contribute effectively to collective worship.

(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 a 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 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 leaders(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 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 manner which facilitates their progressive participation

Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and students.

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 takes place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies

Monitoring of prayer of liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-whole school development and the Catholic life of the school

There is collaboration with local clergy and parishes

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

4.OVERVIEW OF PRAYER AND LITURGY PROVISION

Prayer and liturgy provision is the structure of religious worship, encompassing both private and public prayer, and involves a range of activities such as daily prayers, weekly services like the mass, and other celebrations. As a school community we foster and deepen the relationship of students with God's presence. Prayer is also an integral part of school life and central to Catholic tradition.

For example, through Form time prayers at the beginning of lessons, celebration of the word with various topics rich in Catholic tradition-social teachings of the Church, weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Advent/Christmas liturgies, administering the sacrament of reconciliation, observing the Marian months of May and November by reciting a decade of the rosary during lunch time.

5.RESOURCING

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school in understanding itself as a Catholic school, and 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 displayed throughout the building. Dedicated spaces of 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 are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school while respecting parental right to withdraw their children from collective worship and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

6.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.

7.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.

8.REVIEW

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