



St Mary's Catholic College Wallasey

Prayer & Liturgy policy

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Prayer & Liturgy Policy

1. Context

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| Our Mission statement | We develop individual excellence, embrace opportunities and build communities with the Gospel values at the heart |
| Our vision | Work together; succeed together |
| Our core values | Respect Courage Pride Determination Compassion |

“Also, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about something and pray for it, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. This is true because if two or three people come together in my name, I am there with them.” Matthew 18: 19-20

At St Mary’s Catholic college we believe that Jesus should be at the centre of everything we do as **Christ is within us all**, which is embodied within our mission. In accordance with our mission statement as a Catholic Christian community we provide a Roman Catholic education in an environment where all members of the community are encouraged to embrace opportunities and develop their spiritual, moral and academic potential while discovering and growing their individual faith.

We believe in providing opportunities for all in our College community to experience Liturgy, Liturgical Prayer and Daily Prayer which reflects scripture, traditions, and church teachings. We believe it is important to provide time and space for both personal reflection and collective prayer so that pupils may build a relationship with God.

Our Mission, Vision and Values underpin everything we do. Our vision is clear and is supported by 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 ***‘One body with many members’***. It reminds us that we all have a vital role and a place in God's family. When 1 member suffers, so do we all, when one member celebrates, we celebrate too. When we work together we are complete and in God's name we will succeed together.

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1Cor 12:27)

Each of our values link to scripture that has been selected collectively by our college community.

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| Respect | “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” John 13:34 |
| Courage | “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6 |
| Pride | “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 |
| Determination | “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 |
| Compassion | “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”. Ephesians 4:32 |

2. **Statement of requirement**

Within all Catholic schools and academies, there is a legal requirement for an **‘Act of Collective Worship’** to take place daily. At St Mary’s Catholic College we ensure this is fulfilled in an act of daily Prayer and collective worship which are opportunities to listen to scripture, time for deeper thought and discussion which enhance the Catholic identity and life of the school. The governing body supports leaders to ensure the College meets its legal requirements.

3. **Statement of inclusivity**

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

We welcome all pupils and staff of every faith and no faith alike, as we are all God’s children. Non-Christian staff and students are asked to respect and support the prayer life of others and are encouraged to participate in prayer and liturgy by simply being still and taking the opportunity for their own life reflection. Likewise, the school respects their religious integrity.

As a Catholic College we recognise and fully respect that our community is made up of the following groups of pupils:

- those who are part of a church community in parish communities;
- those for whom St Mary’s may be their first and only experience of Church;
- those from other Christian traditions;
- those from other faith backgrounds;
- those with no religious belief.

As leaders we believe it is essential to guide our staff and pupils to understand the purpose of prayer and liturgy. As a Catholic community we will provide meaningful and authentic opportunities through:

- taking time to reflect and respond to the word of God;
- providing time and space for individual communication with God;
- develop understanding of liturgical prayer;
- experience the liturgical traditions of the church;
- reflect on what it means to be human created Imago Dei;
- develop a sense of belonging and community;
- share our common values;
- respond to the need of others;
- put the gospel message into action by living out our core values.

4. Content & provision

We aim to ensure that all pupils are given high quality, well planned and meaningful prayer resources, as we understand this may be the only opportunity that they have to participate, reflect and grow their own faith.

Daily prayer

Every morning pupils along with their form tutor and attached staff have an opportunity to pray together using our college prayer:

God our Father,

I offer you everything that I do this day.

I offer you my prayers, works, sufferings and joys of this day.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen me so that my life may be of service to you and all who I meet.

Our Lady Help of Christians

Pray for us.

During Inspire time each afternoon all pupils, along with their form tutor and attached staff, have a set period of time to pray and reflect together. The following activities are used to support prayer and reflection:

- Theme of the week is taken from the Sunday gospel.
- The Sunday Gospel is used as a stimulus for reflection.
- Through the theme pupils are given the opportunity to reflect on local and global events and are encouraged to become active members of our global community.
- Opportunity for deeper questioning and reflection.
- Daily prayer for those in need and each other

- Pupil participation each day.
- Prayer space with opportunity to add their own intentions.

In the same way we know it is vital to also provide time and space for our staff to pray. We do this through:

- monday staff briefing starts with a gospel reflection and prayer;
- leadership meetings start with a gospel reflection made relevant and meaningful by individual staff members;
- the chaplain leads staff prayer and reflection on a Thursday after school;
- opportunity for staff to join weekly mass during a Tuesday lunch time;
- Full staff Mass takes place each term.

Liturgical prayer

Liturgical prayer (year group assembly) is an opportunity to gather pupils together to enable them to experience prayer as a community in our college theatre. Our assemblies follow the weekly theme, are specifically religious in nature and distinct from usual information briefings. They are in line with the diocesan guidance and take the same liturgical form:

- **G**ather together.
- **L**isten to the word of God.
- **A**ction - respond in prayer.
- **M**ission and action as a faith community.

Staff complete CPD on the aspects of liturgical prayer and follow a consistent approach to their weekly gathering.

Assembly time: 1.40 - 2.10pm

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| Year 7 | Monday |
| Year 8 | Tuesday |
| Year 9 | Wednesday |
| Year 10 | Thursday |
| Year 11 | Friday |
| 6th form | On a rota cycle each week |

The first assembly of each term is delivered by the Headteacher with SLT having a

designated slot on the assembly rota through the year. Pupils from each form group are given an assembly theme during the year and they lead the year group assembly.

Throughout the year we give opportunities for pupils to visit the college chapel to take part in liturgy for Remembrance day, All Souls, Advent, Ash Wednesday, Lent, reconciliation and confirmation preparation.

Mass (Eucharist)

For many of our pupils and staff we understand that we may provide their first and often only experience of the sacrament of the eucharist. It is therefore important that staff and pupils develop an understanding of the importance and symbolism of mass. We do this thorough:

- start of year Mass with all staff on the first inset day;
- whole college Mass in December for the feast day of St Mary;
- full staff end of year celebration Mass in our local parish of Holy Apostles and Martyrs;
- as part of our residential retreats in year 7, 9 & 6th form, pupils have an opportunity to prepare and contribute to Mass;
- year 11 & 13 celebration leavers Mass;
- staff invited to celebrate Diocesan school Mass at the start and end of the academic year;
- Weekly Mass every Tuesday open to all pupils and staff.

Other sacraments

The sacrament of reconciliation is offered as part of our liturgical prayer during advent and Lent as well as to year 11 and year 13 before they leave and as part of our residential retreat in year 7 to savio house and 9 to Soli house.

We also work closely with our local parishes to support their confirmation programme. We have a confirmation lesson in year 8 to allow pupils to reflect on the importance and significance of the sacrament as well as support the delivery of the programme in our local parishes.

5. Responsibility

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks lovingly on this world. (Saint Teresa of Avila)

The Headteacher is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the Prayer and Liturgy Policy agreed by the governing body. It is important that the Leadership team, RE department, chaplain and responsible staff for Prayer and Liturgy model good practice as

they participate in and lead Prayer and Liturgy. At St Mary's we work closely with HFCMAT to ensure that our chaplaincy strategy is aligned with the Trust wide approach.

The Governing body has the responsibility to ensure that this Policy, required by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is enforced, monitored, and evaluated, so that it continues to meet the needs of the school community.

Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities regarding Liturgical Prayer, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998

The Catholic lead and those with a chaplaincy responsibility are to ensure that prayer and liturgy are central to the catholic life of the school and are in line with the guidance set out in the pattern and liturgy directory of the Shrewsbury Diocese. They are to ensure that there is a liturgical calendar set out in the school which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations. Daily prayer must be planned for all pupils with effective staff training to ensure there are opportunities of formation. Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy is to take place regularly and used to inform planning of world school life.

All staff appointed are expected to support the ethos and Catholic life of the school and contribute effectively to Prayer and Liturgy, as agreed at the time of the signing of the contract. Students are also responsible for preparing and leading Prayer and Liturgical Prayer in the school at specific points.

New staff will be supported during their induction programme to ensure they know what it means to be part of a catholic school and how to contribute to its ethos. Any individual training needs will be identified as part of our college quality assurance process and further training and support to be provided

6. Monitoring & evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy at St Mary's Catholic College is extremely important as it gives us areas to celebrate and areas that need more support to improve the quality of the provision for Prayer and Liturgy.

The following will be monitored by the Leadership Team through the quality assurance process:

- Time set aside for Liturgical Prayer every day.
- There is termly observed practice which is consistent.
- Liturgical Prayer has good quality resources.
- Staff development on Liturgical Prayer so they are confident in the delivery of prayer.
- Liturgical calendar and themes in line with the Church calendar.
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access Prayer and Liturgy.
- Opportunities to work with local parish and community.

- Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and governors with recommendations for future action.

7. Review

In line with the new Prayer and Liturgy directory this policy will be reviewed every year to ensure this policy has the intended impact.