



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

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Section 1: Introduction

***'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.)**

This new liturgy policy is commensurate with *To Love You more dearly* (Prayer and Liturgy Directory) approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, October 2023.

Section 2: Charism and Context

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, many young orphaned or homeless children, having no other option, lived in various prisons in and around Lyon, France. Father André Coindre, filled with compassion for the suffering of these young people, took decisive action and established in 1821 a religious institute of consecrated men, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, to serve them. Coindre's simple progression from viewing with open eyes the suffering of young people, to experiencing deep, heart-felt compassion for them, and then acting to alleviate that suffering came to be recognized by the Church as a "charism," a gift given by the Holy Spirit to an individual for the good of the entire Church.

Education in the spirit of Father Coindre's charism is holistic education, rooted in religious values, structured through friendly discipline, nurtured by personal attention, and committed to academic excellence.

Though separated geographically and culturally and serving locales with different needs and challenges, Brother of the Sacred Heart schools today share a common vision of education: the evangelization of young people.

The *Rule of Life* of the Brothers clearly places a high priority on the religious formation of students and recognizes that this is a responsibility shared by all partners in mission.

#157. Christian Mission of the School We share with the lay teachers the responsibility for the religious and moral formation of the students, creating an atmosphere of understanding and generosity which awakens in young people a sense of community and a desire to serve others. In this way, we are helping to form a dedicated laity and to develop religious, priestly, and missionary vocations.

We are also supplementing the formation given in the family and carrying out the educational mission of the Church.

Father Coindre wanted to give young people hope - first a simple hope for safety and opportunity, in a word, a safe harbour or "sanctuary." His ultimate goal was to lead them to faith.

Our schools are successful if our students leave with the strong belief that God loves them and that students develop that belief by how much their teachers love them and how much they sense that love through the interest shown them in the classroom and extracurricular activities.

Recognizing that faith formation of students is most often achieved through the believable faith witness of loving adults, we strive in our personal and professional lives to be credible witnesses whose faith is manifest in our daily interactions with one another and the entire school community.

Emulating Father Coindre's original intent and the tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, we routinely engage in a variety of prayer experiences that encourage personal holiness, nurture a respectful faith community, and support apostolic outreach within and beyond the school community.

Section 3. Statement of Requirement

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.

Section 4: 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) Head of House:

- Support the delivery of meaningful weekly prayer and reflection through assembly.
- Model the Catholic Life & Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in prayer & liturgy.
- Encourage involvement in prayer & liturgy.
- Support the monitoring of collective worship and be part of the self-evaluation process of staff and students.

(d) Role of Form Tutor:

- Support the consistent delivery of meaningful daily prayer and reflection (daily prayer is a non-negotiable requirement of our Catholic Life & Mission)
- Model the Catholic Life & Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in Prayer & Liturgy
- Encourage involvement in Prayer & Liturgy

(e) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators (Prep & Senior)

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

Section 5: Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

- House and whole school assembly based around the prayer and liturgy theme for that week.
- Daily prayer and reflection in tutor groups with resources coordinated by Chaplain and the Prep Prayer & Liturgy Leader
- Annual House Masses (subject to availability of clergy)
- Prayer & Liturgy focused on the liturgical calendar and school year.
- Opportunity for prayer/liturgy/Mass each Friday in the school chapel for both staff and students (subject to availability of clergy)
- Opportunity for a whole school Mass to mark the beginning and end of the school year as well as Holy days (subject to availability of clergy.)
- Opportunity for staff prayer in daily Briefings, meetings, and inset gathering.
- Appropriate liturgical celebrations throughout the year e.g. Advent, Lent, Harvest and Marian liturgies.
- House Prayer boxes, prayer tables and Prep focal liturgical displays are used as visual aids and celebration of prayer activities.

Section 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.

Section 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. Staff also can engage with the Partners in Mission and Coindre Leadership Programme.

Section 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, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate. The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the College leadership.