



Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Moving forward together. Achievement for all!

LITURGICAL PRAYER POLICY



Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.

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St Paul's Catholic High School Mission Statement

"Founded on the love of Christ, and recognising the inestimable worth of each individual, Saint Paul's exists to foster, with care and compassion, personal, spiritual and academic growth, extending into the community and beyond."

Academy Mission Statement

*"United in faith, we are the Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust.
We come together as a Catholic family to enlighten minds, enrich souls and become the best people that God wants us to be; through work, service, prayer and fun.
Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn."*

Legal requirements

The Education Act 1996 requires that all students attending a maintained school shall take part in an act of Liturgical Prayer on each school day. Schools can provide an act of Liturgical Prayer in a variety of ways from a structured assembly programme to a series of thoughts for the day or readings that provide students with an opportunity to think and reflect.

Introduction to Liturgical Prayer at Saint Paul's

Pope Benedict XVI stated in September 2010 that "education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for "both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts" (Wis 7:16)"

Liturgical Prayer at this school goes beyond the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Worship in this school is Christ centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic tradition, reflecting the values of the Gospel.

Liturgical Prayer should be defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils and staff to come together to pray and worship God. It is through these acts of communal worship that we may come to a fuller appreciation of ourselves, and of our relationship with God and others, while allowing us to reflect on what is of value and importance in our lives. All members of our school community have opportunities for prayer and reflection and both sacramental and non-sacramental liturgies.

There are many opportunities for the school community (pupils, staff, governors and parents) to share in the liturgical life of the school. Many occasions will be voluntary but encouragement is given to all to participate using their own gifts and talents. Acts of Liturgical Prayer occur in year assemblies, morning prayer/reflection and Eucharistic celebrations.

Aim

To nurture an environment in which, and provide opportunities for, the members of our school community to express their belief through organised and collective acts of worship.

Rationale

Liturgical Prayer is held for the following reasons;

- To celebrate our faith
- To provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God
- To provide Eucharistic and non- Eucharistic liturgical experiences
- To involve as many people as possible in the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy
- To reflect upon our needs, hopes and those of our school family and the world we live in.
- To recognise each person's uniqueness and value
- To celebrate and educate the whole person, not only academically but morally and spiritually
- To provide opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Guidelines

- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Liturgical Prayer every day in form or an assembly.
- The expectation is that every child will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a Mass and form assembly.
- To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and morning prayers have been produced.
- In Year 7 these include suggestions as to how we come together, use of a focus, and setting by using reflective music.

Expectations

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate in acts of collective worship Liturgical Prayer in a respectful and reverent way

Parents are expected to:

- Promote a positive attitude towards Liturgical Prayer

Teachers are expected to:

- Ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- Ensure that there are opportunities for quality Liturgical Prayer to be delivered
- Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Liturgical Prayer
- Heads of Year are expected to:
 - Ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of Liturgical Prayer
 - Monitor the quality of the acts of Liturgical Prayer in form periods

The Assistant Headteacher (AHT) Catholic Life and Ethos is expected to:

- Ensure that the Liturgical Prayer Policy is fully implemented
- Evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Liturgical Prayer

The Governors are expected to:

- Ensure that Liturgical Prayer is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy
- Ensure that any adult leading Liturgical Prayer has been appointed with the understanding that they are able to fully support the Catholic nature and ethos of the school.

Assemblies

Assemblies contribute in a special way to the ethos of St Paul's by:

- Following a liturgical theme throughout the year
- Sharing common aims and values
- Celebrating achievement and special times
- Exploring together the world in which we live
- Developing a community spirit
- Developing pupils own spirituality
- Reflecting on what it means to be human
- Reinforcing positive attitudes
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All assemblies support the Catholic Life and Ethos of our school. They all start with the sign of the cross and a lighted candle is a reminder of the presence of Jesus amongst us. They include Bible readings, prayers and opportunities for thought and reflection. Pupils are also asked to respond to what they have heard by being given a mission; some way of acting on what they have heard. Our assemblies also play an important part in the school Personal, Social and Health Education programme by looking at important social and moral issues.

Often assemblies will be followed up across the wider life of the school.

Examples of this are: Anti- Bullying week, School Council, pupil chaplains, raising achievement, charity fundraising, Year 11 mentoring, Behaviour for Learning.

All students attend one assembly a week. The assembly rota for the current school year is outlined in the table below.

Day	Assembly
Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10
Friday	Year 11

The school assembly pattern follows a series of themes throughout the year and is taken by the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and Forms on a rota basis. The assembly themes for the current academic years can be found in the staff handbook.

Form Time

The school day incorporates form time at the beginning of the school day and between 1.10pm and 2.10pm each day dependent on the year groups assembly day and the school's split lunch system.

The form time programme is delivered by the form tutor during form time each day. Form time starts with a prayer and these are provided by the school's chaplain.

Form time is an opportunity for students to consider a range of issues designed to make students reflect and think. Some activities look at social or moral dilemmas, current affairs and some celebrate human qualities and achievements whilst others encourage students to think about their rights and responsibilities. Some activities may consider religious or cultural issues depending on the time of the year. Time is also allocated for reading and numeracy activities. Pupils are also encouraged to raise their own issues for discussion. These discussions not only raise important social and moral issues but also provide students with a structured forum to express their views and listen to those of others.

Masses

Whole school celebrations of Mass take place at significant times of the year. These are:

- The start of the academic year
- The end of each of the three academic terms
- The Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul
- Year 11 Leavers liturgy

Masses take place in the sports hall with the exception of the feast of St Peter & Paul where students celebrate mass at St Anthony's RC Church

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our school and allows staff and pupils to come together in worship as a whole school family. As many staff and pupils as possible are encouraged to be involved in the preparation of Mass as well as having a role in the Mass itself. The RE, Music and Drama departments are especially supportive with their involvement. A number of staff and have been commissioned to support our school community as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Staff commissioned are:

Alex Hren
Mike Whiteside
Breeda Stewart
Harrison Kilburn
Tom Wilson
Stephen Mc Mahon

Chaplaincy

Currently Mr Kilburn is the school's chaplain.

During the year the school's chaplain will provides opportunities for Liturgical Prayer across all year groups. Reconciliation Services take place during Advent and Lent and as appropriate at other times in the year. Support is also given to Form Tutors in leading Liturgical Prayer. A number of voluntary Masses are also celebrated during the year. The school's Chaplain also oversees the work undertaken by the school's Worship Council.

Retreats

It is recognised that the experience of a retreat is a unique and valuable experience and supports the Liturgical Prayer experiences of pupils. At present the arrangements are:

- Year 7 – Autumn term – school based
- Year 9- Autumn term- led by the Diocesan Youth Mission Team

It is hoped to extend the retreat opportunities to all other year groups during the academic year 2022-2023.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.