



**Saint Paul's Catholic High School**

*Moving forward together. Achievement for all!*

# PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY



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

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## **St Paul's Mission Statement**

*"Founded on the love of Christ, and recognising the unique 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."*

## **Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust Mission**

*We are His eyes.*

*We inspire wonder, creativity and a love of learning; marvelling in His mystery.*

*We are His hands.*

*We act in service and gratitude.*

*We are His feet.*

*We journey together, developing our individual gifts and celebrating our achievements, with Christ by our side.*

*We are His heart.*

*We selflessly give our love to others, our family of schools and our common home. We are His body, living and learning as one.*

## **Legal requirements**

The Education Act 1996 requires that all students attending a maintained school shall take part in an act of collective worship on each school day. Schools can provide an act of collective worship 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 Prayer and Liturgy at Saint Paul's Catholic**

Prayer and Liturgical worship 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.

Prayer and Liturgy 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 prayer and 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 collective worship occur in year assemblies, morning prayer/reflection, reconciliation services 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**

Liturgy and 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 prayer and liturgical worship 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 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

## **Expectations**

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate in acts of prayer and liturgy in a respectful and reverent way □ Parents are expected to:
- promote a positive attitude towards prayer and liturgy □ 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 prayer and liturgy to be delivered □ Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for prayer and liturgy □ Heads of Year are expected to:
- Ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of prayer and liturgy
- Monitor the quality of the acts of prayer and liturgy worship in form periods □ The Deputy Headteacher (AHT) Catholic Life and Ethos lead is expected to:
- Ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy Policy is fully implemented □ Evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of prayer and liturgy □ The Governors are expected to:
- Ensure that Prayer and Liturgy is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy

- Ensure that any adult leading prayer and liturgy Worship has been appointed with the understanding that they are able to fully support the Catholic nature and ethos of the school.

## **Liturgical Prayer Assembly**

Liturgical Prayer Assembly contributes 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

All Liturgical Prayer 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 say the intercessional prayers and respond by being given a mission acting on what they have heard.

### **Day                                      Liturgical Prayer Assembly**

Year 10 is Monday  
 Year 11 is Tuesday  
 Year 9 is Wednesday  
 Year 7 is Thursday  
 Year 8 is Friday

The liturgical prayer assembly pattern follows a series of themes throughout the year and is taken by the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Pupil Progress Leaders, the Head of RE and the school's Chaplain on a rota basis. The assembly themes for the current academic year can be found in the staff handbook.

## **Daily Prayer**

Each morning pupils along with their Form Tutors have an opportunity to pray together. Forms are encouraged to take ownership of form time prayer by developing the prayer space in their form room to which pupils are able to add their own personal prayer intentions. The tutorial programme is delivered by the form tutor during form time on four out of five mornings per week.

## **Staff Prayer**

All staff and Governor meetings begin with a prayer or reflection. At the briefing on Monday morning staff contribute with their own prayer which is published in the staff briefing notes.

## **Masses**

Whole school celebrations of Mass take place at significant times of the year including:

- End of Autumn term
- Easter
- Feast day of St Peter & Paul

Masses take place in the school's sports hall and at St Anthony's RC Church Wythenshawe.

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 have been commissioned to support our school community as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Staff commissioned are:

Alex Hren  
Mike Whiteside  
Breeda Stewart  
Tom Wilson

## **Chaplaincy**

Mr Harrison Kilburn is the school's Chaplain and is a teacher of RE.

Reconciliation Services take place during Advent and Lent and as appropriate at other times in the year. The school's Chaplain also supports staff in leading Prayer and Liturgy.

## **Retreats**

It is recognised that the experience of a retreat is a unique and valuable experience and supports the prayer and liturgical worship experiences of pupils.

At present the arrangements are:

- Year 7 – internal retreat on theme of form saints
- Year 8 – Savio House TBC
- Year 9 – external retreat at Sacred Heart parish hall

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The Prayer and Liturgical life of the school is monitored through

Learning Walks by members of SLT/PPL/HOD RE  
Form visits by School's Chaplain  
SLT presence at Liturgical Prayer Assembly  
Reports to and visits from Governors  
Student Voice

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

## **The right to withdrawal**

The school recognises right of withdrawal by Parents from collective worship. In line with the CES “Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship.” If such a request is made, we would invite an open discussion with the family/pupil to understand the grounds for withdrawal and discuss the practical implications of withdrawal.