

OUR MISSION

***‘An ambitious and thriving partnership of inclusive Catholic schools,
serving our communities, providing an exceptional experience in education for the holistic formation
of our children and young people aged 3 to 19.’***

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Loved by Jesus, we love, we learn, we live and grow together for Him

Service Tolerance Peace Endurance Truth Enjoyment Respect

Date Approved/Approving Body:	15 th October 2025
Signed:	
Minuted:	
Date of Next Review:	October 2026

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.)

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, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy 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 law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

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

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) Principal

The Principal, 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) 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 well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments Model prayer and liturgy policy 71 9.4
- 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.

AIMS OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

Prayer and Liturgy in our school is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships, as Christian values permeate all aspects of school life and all relationships. It is a way of deepening our relationship with God together and individually. Taking part in daily prayer helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the

core values and symbols of Christianity. As a MAC community in faith, prayer brings us together and supports links with our individual parish communities.

We believe that prayer and liturgy in Lumen Christi MAC aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To give witness by our actions and communications.
- To support parents as the first educators of their children.
- To develop an awareness and understanding of the presence of God in each individual child's life and to encourage a personal response to that presence
- To allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on commitment to following Christ
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To offer opportunities to deepen their faith and foster attitudes of care and respect for each other
- To live, experience and understand the Liturgical life of the Church through the Liturgical Year together with solemnities and feast days
- To promote sacramental life of Christian families and to encourage parents to take an active part in the preparation of their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation
- To foster school-parish links to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith experiencing liturgy and worship beyond and the realms of the school curriculum
- To enable each child to participate and respond to liturgy and worship
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To experience the rich variety of prayer, liturgy and devotions within the Church.

HOW WE MEET OUR STATED AIMS

Through regular prayer and liturgy including the celebration of the Eucharist, the rhythm of the Church's year becomes a normal part of school life and each pupil's life.

A daily act of collective worship is central to the Christ-centred ethos and mission of our school. Worship in our school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. Each act of worship follows the four-fold action of gathering, hearing God's Word, responding to the Word and being sent forward with a mission based on the worship we have participated in. There are a variety of ways in which we pray which children and staff will encounter. These various forms include prayer of blessing or adoration, prayer of petition, prayer of intercession, prayer of thanksgiving, and prayer of praise.

- **Daily Worship**

Prayer at the start and end of the day
Grace before and after meals

- **Weekly worship**

Whole school 'Gospel' liturgy/assembly based on the Sunday Gospel and led by the Principal.

- Key Stage/phase liturgy/assembly: During the week a gathering with children of a similar age focusing upon developing the Gospel theme, a celebration/commemoration from the Liturgical Year, the exploration of a Gospel value/virtue, a national event. Led by teachers within the key stage/phase it gives an opportunity for staff to offer personal witness.
- Celebrations: a whole school gathering celebrating the achievements (academic, sporting, spiritual, social etc.) of the children and the school community.
- Class Prayer: At some point during the week a time for prayer within the classroom which develops the Gospel theme, explores a Gospel value/virtue, a celebration/commemoration from the Liturgical Year, a national event or links with work in RE. This is more than a repetition of the morning/evening
- Mass
- Staff Prayer: A short time for staff to pray together led by staff in turn.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for progression of prayer/ expectations in each school.

Throughout the year

- Family Masses
- Holy Eucharist and Confirmation
- Holy days of obligation
- Benediction and adoration
- Prayer services
- Class assemblies
- Retreats
- Services of Reconciliation
- Stations of the Cross
- Carol Service
- Nativity plays
- Mass for the Harvest
- Hymn practice
- Processions in the month of May for Mary and June for Corpus Christi
- Service of commitment

This list is not exhaustive but demonstrates the commitment of the school to living and celebrating the Catholic life through prayer and liturgy.

Throughout the year, the school will also gather to celebrate important events in the Church's and school's calendar including:

- When Holy Days of Obligation are in term time, pupils, when possible, will join together for the celebration of Mass. These include: All Saints Day (1st November), Epiphany (6th January), Ascension and the Feast of St Peter and St Paul (29th June). This may also include a vigil Mass the day before hand.
- All Souls Day – November 2nd
- Armistice Day – November 11th
- Patronal Feasts, especially the feast of St Peter and St Paul
- Lumen Christi's prayer and celebration day - 2nd February
- Opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent
- Lent, which includes Ash Wednesday (where this falls during term time) and Stations of the Cross - Voluntary prayer and retreats during the school day
- The prayer and liturgy co-ordinator is responsible for organising liturgical timetables and rotas for the school year which are published on the school calendar, website and Mass/Assembly rota. These will be detailed in the Annual Plan of Provision (APOP)
- Please refer to appendix 2 and 3

A COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

As a MAC, we come together in prayer in many ways throughout the school year.

- All our MAC meetings begin with our Lumen Christi MAC prayer.
- Masses are held during Advent and Lent for staff to come together in prayer.
- A MAC Carol service in December.
- 2nd February is our annual day of coming together in prayer and celebration as a MAC
- Our annual conference has a prayer focus which unites us all in our faith.
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- 'Born for This' production before Easter.
- Thanksgiving Mass at the end of the academic year for our pupils and staff.

LINKS WITH THE PARISH COMMUNITY AND PARENTS

- Parents, Carers and local parishioners are welcome to attend Masses and other celebrations during the school year, including carol services, stations of the cross, leavers Masses as well as the weekly/ monthly school mass.
- Deanery Masses for 'Vocations'
- Stay and pray sessions for parents
- Virtual prayer bags sent home via link and QR code for children to engage in prayer with their parents.
- QR codes displayed in Church which show pupils in school actively involved in the prayer life of the school.

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. Please refer to Appendix 4. 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.

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.

Induction of new staff will be provided by Laura McDonagh

Please refer to Appendix 5

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least on a half termly basis- please refer to the APOP and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. All forms of prayer will be monitored and evaluated e.g. Adult led prayer/ pupil prepared prayer and voluntary prayer. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Date Approved/Approving Body:	16.7.25, Board
Signed:	 Bernard O'Driscoll, Acting Chair of the Board
Minuted:	Hollie Parrish 16.7.25
Date of Next Review:	Summer 2026

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY

PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY



Appendix 1



LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY

PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY



Appendix 1

Progression of Pupil Led Prayer at St Peter's.

	Gather	Word	Respond	Mission
	<i>How are you creating a holy space? How do you want people to enter and where would you like them to go? Space: Outside / Inside / Reverence / Semi circle / Circle / Seating</i> Cloth, Crucifix, Candle, Bible & One Relevant Choice The role of other adults – are they participating? Are they leading/encouraging?	<i>What scripture are you going to use? What form is it in (Bible, Bible story, video, acting etc)? How is reverence shown? How will you mark the moment? Who will proclaim? Who is preparing/forming the proclaimers? What visual/kinaesthetic aids will you use?</i>	<i>Responding to the Word of God – reverently and respectfully</i> <i>What did you hear?</i> <i>Not the time for Q & A – not a lesson</i> <i>Encounter - Time to be / Time to think / Time to Reflect</i> <i>(See practical prayer ideas)</i> <i>Offer your prayer to the centre of the prayer focus</i>	A mission: Children should be changed and live differently after encountering God. We send them out with a mission to live out the faith. <i>How do you want the pupils to be transformed by this time of prayer? What is the message children will remember? How will they be able to live out the message?</i> <i>What is the message?</i> -Jesus said this: -We do this:
EYFS	Pupils pray a 'Common Prayer to be Known' chosen by teacher.	Give pupils a choice of scripture they would like to hear	Teacher selects the response – it could be a picture/set of prayers/hymn	Set a mission for the children and ask them for their ideas about what they could do to live it out
KS1	Pupils choose a 'Common Prayer to be Known' to pray.	If appropriate, choose from a selection of scripture passages to match the liturgical season or theme of the prayer (guide as required)	Teacher works with children to create a response – prayers/selecting a picture/action/silence	As a class or group, choose from a selection of missions that link
LKS2	Pupils choose a prayer or hymn linked to the scripture.	If appropriate, choose scripture to match the liturgical season or theme of the prayer (guide as required)	Teacher supports children to create a response – prayers/selecting a picture/action/silence	Find and/or plan their own mission that links (guide as appropriate)
UKS2	Pupils write their own prayer.	Choose scripture to match the liturgical season or theme of the prayer, select a range of literary forms, use of Lectionary (guide as required)	Children create a response – prayers/selecting a picture/action/silence	Create their own mission that links (guide as appropriate)



LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY

PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY

Appendix 2

A Weekly Overview of Prayer at St Peter

Please refer to the APOP for a detailed approach

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prayer Provision	Gospel Assembly	Mass	Pupil prepared and prayer and Liturgy	Bible Buddies	Gifts from God Assembly
Prepared and led by	Principal	Class teacher/ pupils with Parish Priest	Pupils in each year group	Teachers and pupils	Principal/ Senior Leaders

The Liturgical Year

Time of year	Liturgical Year	Liturgical colours
September- end of November	Ordinary Time	GREEN
End of November- Christmas	Advent	PURPLE
Christmas- until Baptism of Our Lord (11 th January)	Christmas	WHITE
11 TH January- 17 th February	Ordinary Time	GREEN
18 th February- 2 nd April	Lent	PURPLE
5 th April – 13 th June	Easter	WHITE
14 th June – September	Ordinary Time	GREEN

- Red is used on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost Sunday. It is used for celebrations of the Lord's Passion, and for Apostles, Evangelists and other Martyr Saints.
- Purple or violet is used in the seasons of Advent and Lent. They may also be used for Masses for the Dead (it is also permitted to use white for Masses for the Dead because of the link with Easter and resurrection, as well as black).
- Rose or pink may only be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.
- For special solemn celebrations, more precious or richly detailed vestments may be worn, even when they are not the colour of the day.

Appendix 4

Prayer Spaces in Classrooms

At St Peter's Catholic primary school all classrooms will have dedicated prayer space that are aligned to the Liturgical Year.

These will include:

- A table with a cloth that reflects the liturgical season with an appropriately coloured cloth and other **seasonal items**. It might also feature a crucifix, a candle, a Bible and an interactive opportunity, such as a class/home prayer book. There might also be a class patron Saint represented by an icon and other artefacts.

Communal Areas in School

There will be a prayer focus of some kind in the reception area and assembly hall, and any monitors or displays in reception would be used to reflect the religious character of the school. The liturgical season would also be evidenced in common areas – for example, a Remembrance Book on display in November. In addition, Stations of the Cross, a grotto, statues and artefacts will feature in and around the school to provide a focus for prayer.

Appendix 5

Formation

	Where formation is needed	When are they being formed? Effective parish links can help with formation
All Pupils	Mass Celebrations of the Word Prayer Music used in prayer and liturgy	• Assemblies • Before and after liturgies • Hymn Practice • RE lessons
All Staff	In addition to the above Staff who lead prayer	• Staff meetings • CPD linked to the SDP/ MAC strategic plan (in house/ MAC/ BDES/ CPP/ CES)
Particular Pupil Groups	Ministers of the Word Readers of the Prayers of the Faithful Altar Servers Prayer preparers Welcomers	• Chaplaincy groups • Liturgy groups • Preparation at lunch or before and after school • Alton Castle
Particular Staff Groups	In addition to the above Music leads PLCs Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist	• Chaplaincy groups • Liturgy groups • Preparation at lunch or before and after school • Staff meetings • CPD linked to the SDP/ MAC strategic plan (in house/ MAC/ BDES/ CPP/ CES) • Diocesan programmes • MAC planned formation

At St Peter's Catholic primary school, the following pupil groups work with the staff, the prayer and liturgy co-ordinator as well as the lay chaplain to ensure that prayer and liturgy are given the highest priority in our school so that as a school, we are able to fulfil our Catholic mission

- Mini Vinnies
- Caritas Ambassadors
- CAFOD Club
- Liturgy Leaders