STUART BATHURST
Catholic High School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2026-2027

"To bear witness to the Gospel Values and act always with a steadfast determination to do and be of our best."

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body.
Approved: September 2026
To be reviewed: September 2027

Mission Statement

At Stuart Bathurst Catholic School, our mission is *'To bear witness to the Gospel Values and act always with a steadfast determination to do and be of our best'*

With Christ at the centre of school community, Religious Education, prayer and liturgy, are integral to our Catholic ethos. They shape our identity, inspire our learning and guide the formation of every pupil. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, we nurture the faith of each pupil, encouraging them to grow in their relationship with God and become the person He has called them to be.

Guided by our motto, *'To do and be of our best,'* we promote perseverance in faith, learning and life, encouraging pupils to develop resilience, follow Christ's example and put their faith into action through love, compassion and service to others.

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;69 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) Head of School

The Executive Principal and Head of School, as the spiritual leaders 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
- 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.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

(a) Daily Prayer

- During line up prayer takes place as a whole school community.
- During tutor time every school day begins and ends with prayer. Prayer also takes place at the beginning of Religious Education lessons and at other appropriate times throughout the school day.
- Morning and afternoon prayer is facilitated by form tutors, with pupils encouraged and supported to prepare and lead prayer according to their age and ability.
- Prayer Boxes are provided to support daily prayer and create a sacred space within the classroom. These include prayer cloths reflecting the Church's liturgical seasons, a cross and candle, with an accompanying prayer script to support staff and pupils (see Appendix 1: Our Prayer Box).
- Pupils experience different forms of Catholic prayer, including traditional prayers, Scripture, silence, reflection and spontaneous prayer.

(b) Celebrations of the Word

- Weekly Celebrations of the Word provide opportunities for pupils to gather as a year group community, listen to Scripture and respond through prayer and reflection.
- Celebrations of the Word follow the structure of Gather, Word, Response and Send, *Prayer and Liturgy Directory 7.2-73*.
- Scripture is central to these celebrations, with pupils supported in preparing readings, prayers and reflections, according to their age and ability.
- Celebrations reflect the liturgical year, the school's mission and appropriate themes from Catholic Social Teaching, encouraging pupils to put their faith into action.

(c) Mass and the Sacraments

Tutor Group Mass

- Mass is celebrated weekly on Fridays, with tutor groups participating according to the school's Mass rota.
- Pupils are supported in preparing for and participating in Mass, developing their understanding of the Eucharist and undertaking appropriate liturgical ministries.
- Preparation takes place in collaboration with the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator, school priest and relevant members of staff, ensuring that celebrations follow the rites and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

Whole School Mass

- Throughout the academic year, Mass is celebrated to mark significant occasions in the life of the school and the Church.

- These include Year 7 and Year 12 Welcome Masses, Christmas and Easter celebrations, Bathurst Day, leavers' Masses and the End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving.
- Parents, carers, clergy and members of the parish community are welcomed to appropriate school celebrations, strengthening links between school, home and parish.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- During Advent and Lent, pupils are provided with opportunities for penitential prayer, Scripture reflection and Examination of Conscience.
- Opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation are provided in collaboration with the school priest.
- Pupils are prepared and supported in understanding the significance of God's mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation,

(d) Special Liturgies and Devotions

- Prayer and liturgy reflect the seasons of the Church's liturgical year, including Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, alongside holy days of obligation and significant feast days.
- Pupils experience a range of Catholic prayers and devotions, including the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Marian devotions during May.
- Special celebrations mark significant occasions in the life of Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, including remembrance liturgies, Bathurst Day and transition celebrations.
- Pupils are encouraged to participate actively in the preparation and celebration of prayer and liturgy, developing their confidence and understanding as they progress through school.

(e) Prayer and Liturgical Music

- Sacred music and hymns are an important part of the school's prayer and liturgical life, helping pupils to participate meaningfully in worship.
- Pupils are encouraged to develop familiarity with traditional Catholic prayers, liturgical responses and a shared repertoire of appropriate sacred music.
- Music is selected with regard to the Church's liturgical seasons and the nature of each celebration *Prayer and Liturgy Directory 6.2*

(f) Annual Prayer and Liturgy Provision

The school's prayer and liturgy provision throughout the academic year is summarised below. Further details, including dates, responsibilities and arrangements for individual celebrations, are recorded in the school's Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) which is a working document and is updated regularly.

September	October: Month of the Rosary	November: Month of Remembrance
CST Focus: Dignity of the Human Person	**CST Focus:** Dignity of the Human Person	**CST Focus:** Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic Life Briefings Themes: Welcome Liturgy for Staff **September Devotion:** Our Lady of Sorrows **School Commemorations:** 42nd Anniversary of Minibus Crash. Whole school welcome Mass September the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows	**October Devotion:** The Month of the Rosary Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 4th Oct: Eco themed-Collective Worship Harvest Mass and Year 7 Welcome Mass Thanksgiving for Creation SB Harvest Festival Appeal **Tutor Group Masses:** Y8: celebrations of Ferias ,St. John Henry Newman, Memorial of Ignatius of Antioch	**Catholic Life Briefings Themes:** Remembrance Day, Stuart Bathurst Memory Book **All Souls' Day:** 2nd Nov Creation of Stuart Bathurst Memorial Book of Remembrance. Pupils and Staff place their intentions. **Remembrance Day:** Nov 11th: Liturgy and 2 Mins Whole School Moment of Silence **Tutor Group Masses: Y8/9:** Ferias and Celebration of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December: Advent & Christmas	**January**	**February**
CST Focus: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable **Catholic Life Briefings Themes:** Remembrance Day, **Advent Reconciliation** Services each week by year group (lighting of Advent wreath, Examination of Conscience, and opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation). **Christmas Carol Service and Liturgy:** invite to CMAT schools, Parish Community and Families **End of Term Christmas Mass:** Advent Feria	**CST Focus:** Solidarity and the Common Good **Epiphany Liturgy:** Online Mass, Streamed from School Chapel. **January Devotion:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus **Chapel Tutor Time Reflection:** Themed on The Holy Name and Resolutions **Tutor Group Masses:** Y9, celebrations of Ss. Sebastian, Agnes, John Bosco, and Francis de Sales	**CST Focus:** Solidarity and the Common Good **Candlemas** 2nd Feb Collective Worship. **Preparation for Lent** **February Devotion**: The Holy Family **Tutor Group Masses:** Y9, Ferias and celebrations of Ss Paul Miki and his Companions and Our Lady of Lourdes.
Lent: February/March	**Holy Week & Easter: April**	**May: Month of Mary**

CST Focus: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers **Ash Wednesday Liturgy:** 10th February **Weekly Lenten Student Led Liturgies:** Examination of conscience, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **Focus:** Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving (age appropriate)	**CST Focus:** Rights & Responsibilities **Catholic Life Briefings Themes:** Saint Joseph, Patron of Workers **Bathurst Day Mass:** 13th March **April Devotion:** The Blessed Sacrament **Collective Worship Themes:** Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Solemnity of the Annunciation, Feast of Saint Patrick	**CST Focus:** Rights & Responsibilities **Crowning of Mary:** Chapel Tutor Prayer into Prayer Garden **Solemnity of the Ascension:** Online Mass streamed from St Austin's Parish, Stafford **May Devotion:** The Month of Mary **Pentecost Liturgy:** Celebration of Multilingual Prayers **Collective Worship Themes:** English Martyrs, Our Lady of Fatima

June	July – End of Year
CST Focus: Stewardship of God's Creation **Catholic Life Briefings Themes:** Sacred Heart of Jesus, Ss Peter and Paul **Feast of Corpus Christi** (during May half term) **June Devotion:** Sacred Heart of Jesus **Year 11 and Year 13:** Leavers/Celebration Mass	**CST Focus:** Stewardship of God's Creation **End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving:** Celebrating the Year's Transition Liturgy, Growing into who God called you to Be. **July Devotion:** The Precious Blood of Jesus. **Collective Worship themes:** St Thomas the Apostle, Pier Giorgio Frassati

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.

Resources included are: Prayer boxes for tutor time, Bibles, banners, music, crosses and crucifixes, drapes (liturgical colours), statues and religious artefacts, internet resources, liturgical relevant posters and resources.

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.

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, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Appendix 1



OUR PRAYER BOX

Gather

We take a moment to still ourselves in our time of Prayer...

We lay our Prayer cloth to remind us of our Season:

Green: For Ordinary Time- reminding us to keep growing in faith, learning from Christ, and living as his followers every day.

Purple: For Lent and Advent- reminding us to prepare our hearts for Christ and as a symbol of Penitence and Anticipation.

White: For Christmastide and Eastertide- reminding us of the joy of Jesus' birth, resurrection, and God's glory.

We bring forth our Cross as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us.

We light our Candle as a sign of Christ's as the light of the World as we begin with the sign of the Cross...



"To always do and be of our Best"

STUART BATHURST

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