



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
EDUCATION SERVICE

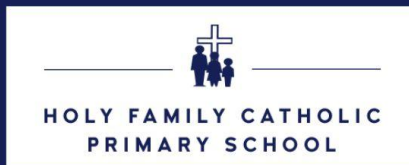


Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 19th September 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026

Signed by the Chair of Governors

Signed by the Headteacher



Our Mission Statement

Our Catholic school sets out to provide an education that is God centred.

It is a community where everyone is valued, loved and respected by each other. Our children are encouraged to give of their best in all they do, to understand their beliefs and to work and play happily together.

They are further encouraged to express their God given talents and to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience.

We value our place in the parish and aim to maintain our strong partnerships with parents, governors and the wider community.

We aim to work as a team in a partnership that is truly supportive and understanding of everyone's needs.

We seek to follow God's guidance of loving and caring for each other in the way he taught us and to uphold our school name, living each day as one happy and Holy Family.

1. 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.)

2. 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; 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.

3. 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 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:

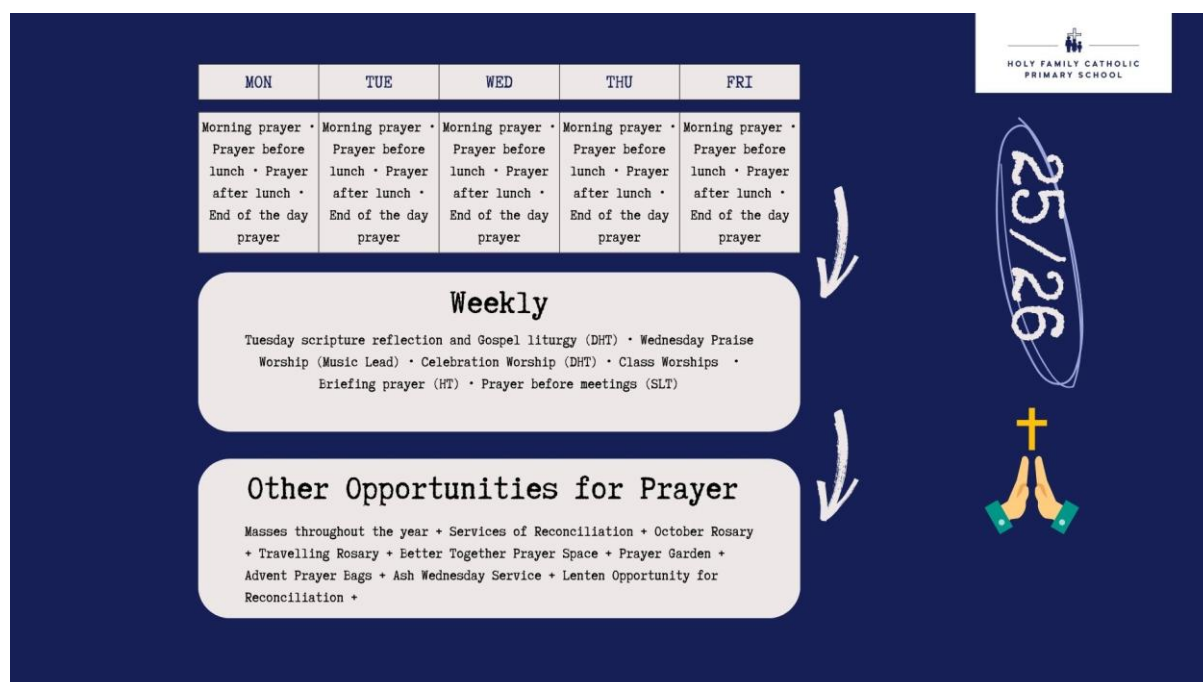
- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate 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) 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 Education Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision



5. Our school context

At Holy Family, we aim to support our school community to strengthen their relationship with God by valuing and respecting the power of prayer.

We provide our school community with a variety of different times to pray in different ways including class liturgies, daily prayer time, worship through song, sharing the Rosary, whole school worship and many others.

We aim for children to understand that prayer can be formal and informal, it is an opportunity to speak, listen and respond to God.

We also have set times of the day when we pray together as a class: Start of the day, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day.

Children are taught to make the Sign of the Cross and know by heart the following prayers: The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the School Prayer.

Children are also encouraged to pray the Rosary and learn Mass responses.

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- Be central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory Celebrations will:
- be appropriately paced
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

Acts of Prayer and Liturgy are planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in all liturgies
- involving consultation with the PSHE Lead, staff and with reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

MASSES AND CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The celebration of Mass is an important part of our spiritual life at Holy Family.

We aim for Mass to be a community celebration which gathers together children, all staff, parents and parishioners.

Each Mass is led by a different children who learn and share the readings and bidding prayers.

Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of each term as well as Holy Days of Obligation and other key events in the year of the Church.

All staff invite Fr Stephen into their classrooms for Services of the Eucharist and liturgical celebrations. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of prayer and liturgy, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

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.

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.

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

9. Review

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