

**Our Lady of the Rosary  
Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

**O**ur Journey

**L**ove God

**O**thers First

**R**espect All

*Persevere to Succeed*

Title  
Policy Approval:  
Policy Renew :

Prayer & Liturgy Policy  
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## Our Catholic Mission

At Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Christ is at the heart of everything we do.

**Our Journey**  
**Love God**  
**Others First**  
**Respect All**

Our mission, “Our Journey Love God, Others First, Respect All and Persevere to Succeed,” is at the centre of our prayer and liturgical life. We seek to create a community where every child and adult knows that they are uniquely created in the image and likeness of God, loved by God and called to live out the Gospel. Our school phrase ‘Stay with us Lord on our journey’ is spoken every day after prayers.



Prayer and Liturgy are central to the life and mission of Our Lady of the Rosary school (OLOR) Through prayer, celebration and reflection, we seek to develop children spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally, enabling them to encounter Christ, grow in faith and respond to God's call in their lives.

Our prayer and liturgical life is rooted in Scripture, the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, the liturgical year, the Sacraments and the life of the parish.

We seek to form children who can know God, love God and serve others, developing a lifelong relationship with Christ and an understanding that faith is lived through action.

## Purpose of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy at OLO enable the whole school community to gather in the presence of God, to listen to his Word, to give thanks, to celebrate, to seek forgiveness, to pray for others and to respond to God's love. It also supports children and staff to:

- develop a personal relationship with God;
- encounter Jesus Christ;
- listen and respond to Scripture;
- participate in the prayer life of the Church;
- develop an understanding of the Sacraments;
- celebrate the mysteries of the Church;
- develop a repertoire of traditional Catholic prayers;
- experience different forms of prayer;
- develop an appreciation of silence, stillness and reflection;
- participate actively and reverently in prayer and liturgy;
- develop their understanding of the liturgical year;
- recognise the presence of God in their lives and the lives of others;
- develop a spirit of thanksgiving, compassion, forgiveness and service;
- understand that prayer leads to action and living out the Gospel.

At OLO we aim to provide opportunities for children to experience prayer and liturgy that are age-appropriate, inclusive, engaging, reverent, varied and rooted in the life of the Church.

## The Church's Guidance

This policy is informed by:

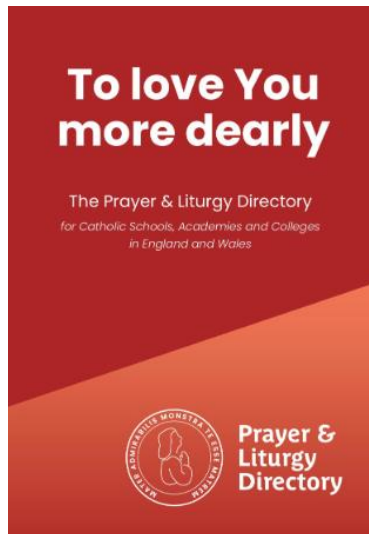
- the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church;
- the Catholic Education Service Prayer and Liturgy Directory, To love You more dearly;
- the Religious Education Directory, To know You more clearly;
- the current Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework;
- diocesan guidance;
- the school's mission and Catholic Life and Mission.

***“To love You more dearly”*** provides guidance for Catholic schools in developing, planning and evaluating their prayer and liturgical life.

To know You more clearly is the current Religious Education Directory and provides the framework for the taught Religious Education curriculum. Prayer and Liturgy and Religious Education are therefore distinct but complementary aspects of the school's Catholic life. Prayer and Liturgy are not curriculum time allocated to Religious Education. However, the two areas are closely connected: the knowledge, understanding and Scripture encountered through Religious Education enrich children's participation in the prayer and liturgical life of the school, while prayer and liturgy enable children to encounter and respond to the faith they are learning about.

## The Legal Requirement

The school provides a daily act of prayer and liturgy in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. As a school we follow the Prayer and Liturgy Directory



Prayer and Liturgy are central to the identity and mission of our Catholic school. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from prayer and liturgy in accordance with the relevant legislation. The school will respond to any request for withdrawal sensitively and in accordance with its legal responsibilities.

## What is Prayer and Liturgy?

We believe at OLOR that prayer is the raising of our hearts and minds to God. It is a relationship with God. It is expressed at Our Lady's through many different forms.

- praise and thanksgiving;
- petition;
- intercession;
- contrition and prayers of sorrow;
- vocal prayer;
- meditation;
- contemplation;
- silence and stillness;
- spontaneous prayer;
- Scripture-based prayer;
- traditional Catholic prayer;
- music and song.

Liturgy is the public prayer of the Church. The Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's liturgical life. OLOR recognises three complementary areas of prayer and liturgical celebration across school:

## The Eucharist

The Eucharist is central to the life of the Catholic Church. School Masses that are held termly in our school hall provide opportunities for the school and parish community to gather in thanksgiving and to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

## Celebration of the Word

Weekly Celebrations of the Word provide opportunities for children and adults to gather around Scripture, listen to God's Word, reflect and respond through prayer.

## Prayer

Prayer takes place regularly throughout the school day at OLOR and includes personal, classroom, communal and whole-school prayer.

## Scripture

Scripture is at the heart of the prayer and liturgical life of Our Lady of the Rosary. Children are given regular opportunities to hear, reflect upon and respond to the Word of God through:

- Gospel readings;
- Scripture-based Celebrations of the Word;
- class prayer;
- whole-school prayer;
- liturgical assemblies;
- Scripture reflection;
- Mass;
- faith journals;
- prayer with the parish priest;
- prayer linked to the liturgical seasons.

Staff support children to listen attentively to Scripture and to make connections between the Word of God, their own lives and the way they live out the Gospel.

## The Liturgical Year

The liturgical year provides the structure and rhythm for much of the school's prayer life at OLOR and liturgical life.

- Advent;
- Christmas;
- Ordinary Time;
- Lent;
- Holy Week;
- Easter;
- Pentecost;
- Marian feasts;
- saints' feast days;
- other significant celebrations of the Church.

Prayer and liturgy are adapted throughout the year to reflect the season being celebrated and to deepen children's understanding of the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. Particular attention is given to Advent, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, with opportunities for children to participate in prayer, Scripture, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation, liturgies and other appropriate celebrations.

## Daily Prayer

Prayer is woven throughout the school day at OLOR

- at the beginning of the school day;
- before and after lunch;
- at the end of the school day;

- within classroom learning;
- during Celebration of the Word;
- during assemblies;
- during times of reflection;
- at significant moments within the school community;
- through spontaneous prayer.

The school aims to create a balance between planned and spontaneous prayer, allowing children to develop both communal and personal prayer.

## **Celebration of the Word**

Celebration of the Word is an important part of the prayer life of the school.

Celebrations are planned with a clear purpose and are rooted in Scripture and the liturgical season.

- gathering;
- Scripture;
- reflection;
- silence;
- music or song;
- prayer;
- intercession;
- symbolic action;
- response;
- sending forth/mission

Celebrations are adapted to the age and capacity of the children.

Children are progressively supported to contribute to the planning, preparation and leadership of Celebrations of the Word.

## **The Eucharist and Mass**

The Eucharist is central to the Catholic life of our school.

School Masses are celebrated regularly throughout the academic year and reflect the liturgical calendar and significant occasions in the life of the school and parish.

- whole-school Masses;
- class attendance at parish Mass;
- feast day Masses;
- family Masses;
- Year 6/Reception Buddy Mass;
- Year 6 Leavers' Mass;
- sacramental celebrations;
- Masses connected with significant points in the liturgical year.

Children are progressively formed to understand the different elements of the Mass and to participate appropriately according to their age and capacity.

## **Sacramental Life**

The school works closely with the parish and families to support the sacramental life of

children.

- Reconciliation, this happens twice a year in school with our Year 4 and Year 6 children;
- First Holy Communion;
- other sacramental celebrations as appropriate.

The school recognises the important role of parents and families as the first educators in faith and seeks to work in partnership with them and the parish.

## **Children Formation, Participation and Leadership**

Children are progressively formed to participate actively and appropriately in the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

- lead prayers;
- proclaim Scripture;
- prepare intercessions;
- contribute to planning Celebrations of the Word;
- select appropriate music and hymns;
- prepare prayer spaces;
- lead Rosary and other devotional prayer;
- assist with liturgical celebrations;
- undertake appropriate liturgical ministries;
- support younger children through buddy prayer;
- contribute to evaluation and reflection.

Children's participation is not simply about giving children a role. Children are formed to understand the purpose and meaning of the prayer and liturgy in which they participate. Opportunities for leadership increase progressively as children develop confidence, knowledge and maturity. We have a Bespoke prayer leadership progression plan that highlights the expectations around leading Celebration of the Word across school.

The school's GIFT Chaplaincy Team plays an important role in supporting the prayer and spiritual life of the school.

## **Prayer Progression**

The school provides a progressive experience of prayer from EYFS to Year 6. This follows the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. See appendix 1

## **Marian Devotion**

As a school dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, devotion to Mary has a significant place in our prayer life. Children learn about Mary as the Mother of Jesus and as a model of faith, obedience and discipleship.

- Our Lady's Birthday;
- the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary;
- May devotions;
- the Rosary;
- Marian processions;
- other appropriate Marian celebrations.

Children are supported to understand the meaning of Marian prayer and devotion within the

life of the Catholic Church.

## **Silence, Stillness and Contemplation**

The school recognises the importance of silence in developing children's spiritual lives.

- quiet reflection;
- stillness;
- meditation;
- contemplation;
- listening to Scripture;
- personal prayer.

These opportunities are adapted to the age and developmental stage of children. Staff model reverence, stillness and attentiveness so that children learn that prayer does not always require words or activity.

## **Music and Song**

Music and song enrich the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Children are introduced to a repertoire of appropriate religious hymns and songs and are given opportunities to use music as a form of prayer and praise.

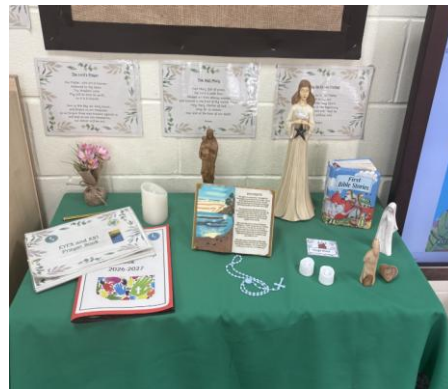
Music is selected carefully to reflect the liturgical season, Scripture or theme, age of children and nature of the celebration. The school recognises that silence, spoken prayer and music can all contribute to a rich experience of prayer and liturgy. Each week the children gather on a Friday afternoon to enjoy Hymns with our Music Lead.

## **Prayer Spaces and Environment**

The school environment reflects its Catholic identity.

- Bible;
- crucifix;
- sacred images;
- appropriate religious symbols;
- candles where appropriate;
- liturgical colours;
- prayer intentions;
- children's prayer and reflection.

Prayer spaces are adapted according to the liturgical season and provide opportunities for personal reflection and prayer. There are also external school Prayer Garden's where we regularly celebrate services with children and families. These provide additional spaces for prayer, reflection and connection with creation.



## School, Parish and Home

The relationship between school, parish and home is central to our Catholic life and mission. The school works closely with Father Kieren (our parish priest) and the parish community of Saint John Henry Newman to provide opportunities for children and families to participate in the life of the Church.

- parish Mass;
- school Mass;
- sacramental preparation;
- Stations of the Cross;
- Reconciliation;
- Marian celebrations;
- family liturgies;
- parish celebrations;
- prayer resources for families;
- opportunities for parents and carers to participate in prayer and liturgy.

Families are encouraged to develop a life of prayer within the home. The school supports this through initiatives such as family prayer books, travelling nativities, prayer intentions and opportunities for families to attend liturgical celebrations.

## **Inclusion**

Prayer and Liturgy are for the whole school community.

The school seeks to ensure that all children are able to participate meaningfully, with appropriate adaptations made where necessary.

- SEND;
- communication needs;
- sensory needs;
- physical access;
- developmental stage;
- individual circumstances.

Inclusion does not mean reducing expectations. It means ensuring that children are supported to participate in ways that are appropriate and meaningful for them.

## **Prayer and Liturgy in EYFS**

Prayer and liturgy in EYFS is appropriate to the developmental needs of young children.

- simple prayers;
- Scripture stories;
- songs;
- gestures;
- symbols;
- silence;
- wonder and awe;
- thanksgiving;
- simple acts of praise;
- opportunities to talk to God.

Adults model prayer and support children to develop familiarity with Catholic prayer and the language of faith.

## **Prayer and Liturgy Across the School Year**

The school maintains an Annual Prayer and Liturgy Plan (APOP)

- daily classroom prayer;
- Celebration of the Word;
- Mass;
- liturgical assemblies;
- Scripture reflection;
- traditional Catholic prayer;
- Marian devotion;
- sacramental celebrations;
- Stations of the Cross;
- Reconciliation;
- special liturgical celebrations;

- children-led prayer;
- parish celebrations;
- family prayer opportunities.

The detailed annual calendar is maintained separately and reviewed annually. This is available on our school website



## Leadership and Responsibility

### Governors

- ensure prayer and liturgy are central to the school's Catholic identity;
- ensure provision reflects the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- ensure an appropriately trained person leads Prayer and Liturgy;
- ensure the policy is reviewed regularly;
- ensure appropriate resources and funding are available;
- monitor the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy.

### Headteacher

- ensure prayer and liturgy are central to school life;
- work in partnership with the parish;
- ensure staff receive appropriate formation;
- ensure resources are available;
- ensure the policy is implemented effectively;
- ensure prayer and liturgy contribute to Catholic Life and Mission.

### Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

- develop the annual Prayer and Liturgy Plan;
- coordinate the liturgical calendar;
- support staff in planning prayer and liturgy;
- ensure provision is age-appropriate;
- support children formation and leadership;
- coordinate appropriate resources;

- work closely with the parish priest;
- support staff induction and formation;
- monitor and evaluate provision;
- gather children and staff voice;
- report to the Headteacher and governors;
- contribute to Catholic Life and Mission development planning.

### **All Staff**

- model reverence and prayer;
- support children's spiritual development;
- lead prayer appropriately;
- prepare children for participation;
- support children leadership;
- create an atmosphere conducive to prayer;
- reflect the school's Catholic mission in their daily practice.

## **Staff Formation**

The school recognises that effective prayer and liturgy requires ongoing formation.

- Catholic identity of the school;
- school mission;
- prayer and liturgical practice;
- liturgical year;
- Celebration of the Word;
- role of Scripture;
- children participation.

Whole-school formation is provided regularly, with additional support and training where appropriate. 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.

## **Resources**

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.

Prayer and Liturgy are appropriately resourced to reflect their centrality to the Catholic life of the school.

- Bibles;
- prayer books;

- liturgical resources;
- hymn books and music;
- sacred images;
- crucifixes;
- prayer tables;
- liturgical colours;
- candles and appropriate symbols;
- resources for Celebration of the Word;
- resources for the liturgical seasons;
- children prayer journals.

Dedicated prayer spaces are maintained and developed throughout the year.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Prayer and Liturgy are monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure that provision is faithful to the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church and has a positive impact on the spiritual lives of children. Each term a Governor is invited into school to monitor provision alongside H.Groves and H.Higson , this involves a pupil voice activity. During the visit we focus on the following:

### **Provision**

- Is prayer and liturgy regular and well planned?
- Is there a rich and varied experience?
- Does provision reflect the liturgical year?

### **Quality**

- Is Scripture central?
- Is prayer purposeful and reverent?
- Is provision appropriate for children's age and capacity?
- Is there a suitable balance of activity, silence, reflection and participation?

### **Children participation**

- Are children actively and meaningfully engaged?
- Are children increasingly confident in leading prayer?
- Are children appropriately formed for liturgical participation and ministry?
- Do children understand what they are celebrating?

### **Impact**

- Can children talk about prayer?
- Can children explain how prayer helps them encounter God?
- Do children know and understand traditional Catholic prayers?
- Do children recognise the significance of the liturgical year?
- Does prayer influence the way children live and treat others?
- Are children developing spiritually as they progress through the school?

### **Stakeholder voice**

- children;
- staff;
- parents and carers;

- governors;
- parish priest/clergy.

Monitoring evidence may include observations, children voice, staff voice, planning, children leadership, prayer journals, photographs and displays, Mass and liturgy evaluations, parish feedback, family feedback, staff formation records and action plans.

Findings from monitoring inform future planning, staff formation and school improvement.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator, Headteacher and governing body. The policy will be reviewed at least every two years, or sooner where there are significant changes to Church guidance, diocesan guidance, the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, the Religious Education Directory, CSI requirements or school practice.

## **Appendix 1**

### **EYFS**

- Sign of the Cross;
- simple prayers;
- praise and thanksgiving;
- prayer through song;
- Bible stories;
- silence and stillness;
- simple responses;
- prayer connected to their experiences.

### **Key Stage 1**

- Sign of the Cross;
- Our Father;
- Hail Mary;
- Glory Be;
- Grace before and after meals;
- simple prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition;
- Scripture-based prayer;
- silence and reflection.

### **Lower Key Stage 2**

- Apostles' Creed;
- Act of Contrition;
- Angel of God;
- Come, Holy Spirit;
- Prayer of St Richard of Chichester.

Children increasingly lead elements of prayer and Celebration of the Word.

### **Upper Key Stage 2**

- Rosary;
- Morning Offering;
- Magnificat;
- Acts of Faith, Hope and Love;
- traditional Catholic prayer;
- spontaneous prayer;
- meditation;
- reflection;
- silence and contemplation.

## Appendix 2

### Weekly Provision

| Day       | Provision                                                                                                                                                  | Led by                                                             |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Whole school Celebration of the word in classrooms and prayer spaces around school                                                                         | Led by pupils and Chaplains                                        |
| Tuesday   | Key Stage 2                                                                                                                                                | Led by key Stage 2 staff on a rota basis                           |
| Wednesday | EYFS and Key Stage 1 Assembly linked to Liturgical Calendar                                                                                                | Led by EYFS and Key Stage 1 staff on rota basis                    |
| Thursday  | Classes attend Mass on a rota basis. Once every two weeks at English Martyrs Church                                                                        | See Timetable                                                      |
| Friday    | Whole staff briefing staff pray together and share any prayer intentions<br><br>Whole school Celebration Assembly<br><br>Whole school <u>Hymn</u> Practice | Led by Mrs Groves<br><br>Led by Mrs Groves<br><br>Led by Mrs Smith |

