



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Date last reviewed	July 2026
Reviewed by	Governing Body
Date of next review	July 2027



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Our Mission Statement:

"Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith"

Our Vision

St. Benedict's enables confident, independent, and resilient learners inspired by Gospel values to become Christ-like citizens.





Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

At St. Benedict's School, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. We aim to be a living, loving and sacramental community which is inspired by the life of Christ and the teachings of the Church, rooted in Gospel Values. We hope that from the minute you enter our school you clearly see and feel that we are a Catholic community.

Acts of worship may take place at any time during the day. It may take the form of a single act of worship with the whole school community or separate acts of worship in school/class groups.

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.

Statement of Requirement

Prayer and Liturgy in our Catholic School

Worship is at the heart of St. Benedict's and is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. As a school, we want to provide continuous opportunities for children to develop prayer as a natural expression of their developing relationship with God.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At St. Benedict's, we ensure that liturgy and prayer is inclusive to all members of the school community. Pupils with SEND are supported and encouraged to participate fully in everything.

Health and Safety

LED candles are used during Prayer and Liturgy and are lit in the classrooms.

Legal Requirements

Prayer and Liturgy is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. All acts of worship are consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. Each act of Prayer and Liturgy is used to enhance and enrich spirituality across the school and will include a period of reflection.

Right of Withdrawal

In law, parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Prayer and Liturgy but non-Catholic parents are made aware that worship is central to the life of the school and both formal and spontaneous acts of worship take place in a variety of contexts.



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Responsibility

Governors

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.

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.

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.
- Children 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



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

readily available to staff and children.

- 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

Organisation

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.

Liturgy at St. Benedict's will follow the pattern or, a variation of the following:

- Gathering – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet, reflective music, lit candles, sign of the cross, prayer table etc.)
- Word – a reading from the scriptures (or other suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme
- Action – a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures, such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc.)
- Mission – the sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Planning

Worship is planned with reference to the Church's seasons, the themes in "Lighting the Path" and significant dates. Pupils will have opportunities to prepare, organise and lead worship. Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship.

We aim to:

- 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 offer opportunities to deepen their faith and foster attitudes of care and respect for each other



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

- 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 and Holy Communion
- To foster school-parish links to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith experiencing liturgy and worship beyond the realms of the school curriculum
- To enable each child to participate and respond to liturgy and worship
- To provide opportunities for pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence
- To develop the skills of:
 - ❖ Reverence
 - ❖ Contemplation
 - ❖ Reflection
 - ❖ Interpretation
 - ❖ Empathy
 - ❖ Meditation

Children are developing a growing independence to pray through stillness. They understand the importance of spending time in God's presence and use prayer and liturgy to strive every day to bear witness to Christ and 'be the change they want to see in the world today'.

They demonstrate reverence, sing joyfully and respect the need of others to pray. This nurtures the children to love themselves, love each other and love Jesus Christ.

Our Prayer & Liturgy takes many different forms:

- We gather together as a school community for whole school collective worship on a Monday. On a Monday, worship is led by Mrs McAlpine and pupils based on the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. This is a theme we will have encountered at church on Sunday.
- On Tuesday's and Wednesday's, infants and juniors gather separately for an EYFS/ KS1 and KS2 Liturgy.
- During key parts of the Liturgical Year and Feast Days, Fr. Joseph will celebrate Mass in our school hall. Children play an active part in each Mass, through reading, praying, singing, altar serving and taking part in offertory processions. Readings and hymns are planned and recorded in advance after discussion with our parish priest.
- We have our 'Hymns of Praise' where we gather together to practise or learn new hymns.
- Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team lead a morning liturgy in Infant and Junior classrooms.
- We end each week with a celebration assembly. Children are awarded badges based on living out that week's Gospel Value.
- On the last Friday of the term, we come together as a community to celebrate our achievements and successes in our 'Gifts from God' assembly.



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

- Each classroom has a dedicated prayer area where the class prays at regular intervals throughout the day.
- We hold Mass at various times including Holy Days of Obligation.
- Reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent.
- We celebrate St. Benedict's day with a special Mass in July.

Please see APOP for further details – on the school website.

Understanding of the Liturgical Calendar

We ensure that pupils are aware of the Liturgical Calendar and key events in the Church. The symbolism of colours is made clear from the earliest days in our school: purple for penance (seen during Advent and Lent), red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom (seen at Pentecost), white, gold for important feasts, green for the ordinary times of the year, blue is associated with Mary.

Resourcing

All classrooms have a prayer focus with materials of the relevant liturgical colour. There are a number of crucifixes, statues and icons in school so that the prayer focus can be changed regularly. Bibles, prayer books and candles are also available. All resources are stored in each classroom. There is also a wide selection of R.E. boxes which includes Other Faiths. These are stored in the Music Room. All classrooms have music that can be used for Prayer and Liturgy. All teachers have a log in to TenTen resources with materials emailed weekly.

Training and Formation

- 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 of 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.
- New staff will be provided with a handbook, introducing them to the Catholic Life of the school.
- 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 extremely well supported to lead as required



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

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

This policy is monitored by the R.E. Subject Leader and the Headteacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every year.