



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy policy

*'Belonging, caring and sharing,
safe in the arms of God's love.'*

Written by	Updated
Senior leadership team	May 2025



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Belonging, Caring and Sharing

May 2025

Introduction

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Annual Plan of Provision in line with OLOL Trust
- Skills Strategy in line with OLOL Trust
- RSHE policy and programme of provision

This policy is driven by the principles of the:

- Nottingham Diocese Catholic Schools Inspectorate
- Nottingham Diocese Planning and Celebrating Prayer and Liturgy with Young People

Intent

- *As a Catholic Academy, Religious Education and faith formation are at the heart of our school curriculum.*
- *At St. Patrick's School, developing the Catholicism and spirituality of our pupils is central to all we do; prayer and liturgy is a vital part of this journey.*
- *We are members of the Body of Christ and members of a Christian Community and recognise that we are all at different stages of our faith journey.*
- *Therefore, through our Prayer and Liturgy program; we use Christ's teaching through scripture within every aspect of our school and lives, we can develop*



a deep understanding of our faith which will help us to love and serve God in our daily lives, both now and in the future.

- *We are continually striving to develop the spiritual, moral, physical and emotional development of our children by providing a curriculum which enables them to share their qualities, abilities and ambitions thus fulfilling individual potential.*
- *At the centre of our mission is the joined approach of home-school-parish; each working together in mutual co-operation for the benefit of our children.*

Catholic Life and Mission Aims

- *To enrich the lives of the children in the love of God for everyone and everything He has created*
- *Understanding that we are all one body in Christ and that we have a duty to show love to our brothers and sisters around the world.*
- *Understanding of the Good News of the Lord, to enable all to respond to His love.*
- *Teaching of the Catholic faith and how their lives should be shaped by their beliefs and values.*
- *Growth of faith by relating the Gospels to their lives and levels of understanding.*
- *Development of worship and prayer, allowing children to take a leading role.*
- *Awareness and respect of other Christian faiths, world faiths and cultures.*
- *Based upon the varied background and experience of Catholic Social Teaching and Mission, the Prayer and Liturgy programme is designed to meet the needs of all pupils. Everyone is encouraged and supported to show their love for Jesus in the way in which they shown their love for all in our school community.*

We feel that the best way to achieve these aims is a three-way process involving the Home, School and Parish. We endeavour to make these links wherever possible, acknowledging that the foundation of Prayer and Liturgy is presented to children from a very wide range of backgrounds and commitment to the faith.

Implementation

- *Establishing, maintaining and developing a Catholic ethos which is permeated in everything we do and is visible and inclusive to all who visit our school community.*
- *Creating a plan of provision for the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy that is progressive, inclusive and outreaching.*
- *Instruct, explain and demonstrate the Gospel values and how we aim live out our lives by following in the footsteps of Jesus through prayer and scripture.*



- Provide frequent, purposeful and meaningful opportunities for all types of prayer and liturgy so that every child feels they belong to a distinctive Catholic culture.
- Create sacred spaces of worship, both inside and outside, which provide prayer opportunities for individual, group, class and whole school gatherings.
- Ensuring that the virtues are spread throughout all policies and the wider curriculum
- Ensuring that the Gospel values permeate through all policies such as safeguarding, behaviour, inclusion, curriculum etc.
- Developing spiritual understanding, that God created each person in His own image, that He loves everyone uniquely and wants us all to be happy and love everyone.
- Supporting the Sacramental programme within the parish
- Ensuring that all members of our community feel that they belong, are included, valued and respected.

Developing the Prayer and Spiritual Life of the School

We aim to develop the spiritual understanding of everyone in our community, regardless of their beliefs and starting points. We invite the child, their family and all who come into our school community to feel that they walk together with us in their journey of faith.

This is achieved by:

- Providing children with an enriched prayer and liturgy provision which enables them to develop their personal approach towards prayer life- reading of scripture, drama, music etc .This is done by our skills strategy which is progressive and inclusive of all starting points, needs and abilities.
- Wide range of prayer and liturgy opportunities to provide pupils with an enriched programme to develop their spiritual understanding. This is set out in our Annual Plan of Provision. This includes opportunities for all types of prayer, including opportunities for spontaneous, meditation, group and whole school parish gatherings.
- Opportunities for pupil led and staff led prayer and liturgy gatherings with weekly support from our Hub and ongoing support and direction from our Trust Lead Lay Chaplains.
- Providing opportunities for reflection, evaluation and growth.
- Providing a prayer environment- each classroom throughout school is consistent in its approach, has a dedicated prayer area which is continually developed to reflect the Liturgical calendar. These areas display links to the 'Come and See' programme as well as reflecting the current themes from the Annual plan of Provision. The prayer environment can be seen throughout all areas of the school so that prayer and liturgy is a visible witness to everyone.



- Travelling Nativities and travelling bibles for all year group families which enhances home school links

Putting our Faith into Action:

As part of the Mission aspect of prayer and liturgy, our faith is lived out by our commitment towards Catholic Social teachings. This includes:

- Through charitable works at local, national and overseas levels through the annual plan of provision. Children are actively engaged through their roles in House teams to support those in need.
- Through the development of pupil leadership groups which include the opportunity of becoming part of the Chaplaincy teams in Y3-Y6, with each Chaplaincy team having its own mission.
- Through the developments of other pupil leadership groups which include: School Council, Eco Council, Faith in Action, Live Simply, Health and Safety, Junior PTA, Parish Ambassadors and Well Being ambassadors. These groups are led and supported by a range of staff and volunteers who facilitate pupils' understanding of living out their understanding of the Gospels to support others to also have the opportunity to encounter and grow closer to God. Our aim is for children to realise that they are acting as God's Missionary disciples and are living out a particular distinctive virtue of the Catholic Social teaching which drives and inspires their work.
- Y6's are invited to take part in 'Faith in Action programme which is led by school staff and hub chaplains with 'pin badges' presented by the Nottingham Youth Service
- All children and staff are given the opportunity to represent the school at the annual Diocesan Synod event.

Presentations of our faith

At St. Patrick's School, the annual plan of provision takes into account the different seasons celebrated in the Church's Liturgical Year. This partly takes place in lessons, but also focussed on in our liturgies, collective worship, assemblies and other activities during the year.

Areas covered in the academic year include Harvest Celebration, Advent preparation for Christmas, Lenten preparation for Easter, feast day celebrations, including that of our school Patron Saint, Saint Patrick, and our CMAT Patron Saint, Our Lady of Lourdes

Community Involvement

Home- School links.

We warmly welcome opportunities for parents/carers to be involved with the Prayer and Liturgy provision to support school in assisting parents in supporting children to nurture and grow on their faith journey.

This is achieved by:



- *Parents/Carers receiving a letter at the start of the term informing them of the topics their child will be learning about in Religious Education.*
- *Inviting parents/Carers and parishioners to celebrate their child's learning in R.E. as part of our 'Celebration of Learning' assemblies and at 'Come and See' assemblies.*
- *Inviting parents/Carers and parishioner to school and Church Mass and Celebrations of the Word and services throughout the liturgical year.*
- *Inviting parents/Carers to attend termly class liturgy workshops*
- *Parents and Grandparents help in School*
- *Parents/Carers are invited to support on educational visits Christmas concerts and Nativities, Sports Days, Word of the Week events.*
- *Parents/Carers support their child's homework based upon the Liturgical calendar.*
- *Parent/Carers are invited to join the Parent Teacher Association and support is shown in helping organising a range of events for our school-parish community, all funds raised support the development of school's provision for every child to enjoy and benefit.*
- *Parents/Carers are provided with information on the Ten Ten programme (Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum) for all year groups with regular opportunities planned for feedback.*

Parish and De la Salle hub Involvement

Linking the home and school with St Patrick's parish is achieved through the following:

- *Representatives from school staff partaking in hub meetings with Religious and hub Chaplains to plan school and hub masses, liturgies and retreats throughout the Liturgical year.*
- *Representatives from school staff partaking in regular parish meetings so that there is a planned programme of home-school-parish events based upon prayer and liturgy.*
- *Parishioners are warmly invited to school events such as CAFOD Harvest Festival,*
- *Joint home- school-parish projects, such as: the Homeless Shoebox appeal, local Foodbank appeal and ongoing commitment to CAFOD evidence the school's commitment to Catholic Social teaching.*
- *Representatives from St Patrick's parish form part of the Local Governing Body.*
- *Joint home-school-parish Sacramental project, led by hub chaplains.*
- *Children's Liturgy group is held weekly during 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Church. This is based upon the 'Word of the Week' and links closely to school thus linking the home and school.*
- *Regular school newsletter detail the ways in which the school has lived out its Word of the Week mission and contains the latest information upon the prayer and liturgy life of the school.*
- *Regular instalments within the parish newsletter.*



- Children take on ministry roles within school and parish, including altar servers and parish ambassadors.

Impact

- *Our Prayer and Liturgy provision is designed to develop the spiritual growth of all members of our school parish community, regardless of background or starting point. All members are made aware that they belong to our Catholic school community and as such are responsible for living out its distinctive Catholic character through prayer, liturgy and Mission.*
- *We continually monitor and evaluate the impact of our Catholic Life and Mission by gathering the views of our children and all stakeholders, since everyone has a part to play in successfully living out the Gospel values.*
- *Mission is an integral part of the school's ethos as everyone is all part of the Body of Christ and as members of this one body, it is recognised that all have a part to play, through words and actions, that our love for Jesus is reflected in our love for everyone.*

Roles and responsibilities

The coordination and planning of Prayer and Liturgy is the responsibility of the Prayer and Liturgy coordinators and Head teacher who support and guide colleagues towards developing the spiritual life of everyone within our community. These leaders plan and deliver continual professional development and work with colleagues from the Nottingham Diocese and OLOL Trust, so that all staff are equipped with the responsibility of also developing the spiritual life of pupils.

The Local Governing Body oversee the implementation of this policy and delegate responsibility to its Religious Education Link Governors who monitor its effectiveness through learning walks, pupil voice and reports from subject leaders.

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher and the Local Governing Body every two years or more regularly as required.

Reviewed: April 2025

Review date: July 2026.