



ST AUGUSTINES  
SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Holy  
Family  
Catholic  
Multi  
Academy  
Trust

## St Augustine's Catholic Primary School A Voluntary Academy Liturgical Prayer Policy

Name of School	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
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Date policy formally approved by the governing body	December 2022
Date policy becomes effective	December 2022
Review date	December 2024
Signed - Headteacher	John Marciniak (Interim Head Teacher)
Signed – Chair of governing body	Toni Woodhead

# Our Mission Statement is : ‘Let Your Light Shine’

Matthew 5:16

**Prayer and Liturgy** is our loving response to God’s invitation to enter into relationship. We hold a daily act of prayer for all pupils and view it as an integral part of school life.

Prayer and Liturgy at St Augustine’s is a celebratory experience. We GATHER, LISTEN (to the Word of God), RESPOND (through reflection) and Go (forth, to apply learning).

**The Eucharist** - Eucharistic celebrations are held at school and at St Augustine’s Church. They are regular and opportunities for questions are given at the end.

We believe that Christian prayer in a Catholic school celebrates God’s presence in our lives. It 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.

## Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of prayer for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of prayer for all pupils, or separate acts of prayer in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that prayer and liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of prayer is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

## The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in St Augustine’s school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

## **The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## **Principles**

All Acts of prayer in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, 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. In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience
  - be appropriately paced
  - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

## **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

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

## **Recording**

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- In a class book
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Learning walks take place to observe class prayer and liturgy and to celebrate the prayer and liturgy books in each class.

Governors are invited to Whole School Prayer and Liturgy and school mass.

At least once a year the school's provision of prayer will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading it.

### **Resources**

Every class has a Prayer box containing a small holding cross, rosary beads, prayer pebbles, liturgical cloths, prayer cards, candles and a liturgical wheel.

Every class has bags containing planning cards gather, response and going forth.

### **The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

Mrs Elizabeth Lambe

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**