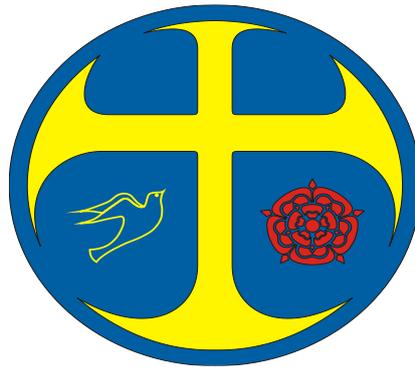


**All Saints' Roman Catholic High School,
A Voluntary Academy**

**part of
Romero Catholic Academy Trust**



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Updated: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed: Spring 2026

Responsibility of: Deputy Headteacher

Policy Approval:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Hall', written over a horizontal line.

Signature of Headteacher

05th December 2024

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. White', written over a horizontal line.

Signature of Chair/Vice-Chair

05th December 2024

Date

Mission Statement

All Saints' is a school where the Catholic faith is taught, lived and celebrated.

We will educate the whole person spiritually,
morally and intellectually.

We embrace Catholic values in all we do and in all our relationships.

We will identify and cater for the individual student's needs and prepare them for responsible participation in society.

Our aim is to follow Christ's teaching, as found in the Gospels,
in everything we do.



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)).

All Saints’ 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 All Saints’, 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 life and mission of All Saints’, 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 All Saints’ (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 All Saints’.

(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 All Saints’ 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 feeds 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
- with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

At All Saints Roman Catholic High School, our prayer and liturgy provision is designed to foster a vibrant spiritual life within our school community, aligning with our Catholic identity and mission. Our approach includes the following key elements:

Daily Prayer and Liturgy

- Each school day begins with a morning prayer and liturgy in form time, which includes both adult-led and student-led worship. This practice encourages active participation and fosters a sense of community among pupils.
- At the end of each school day, pupils engage in a reflective prayer, reinforcing our commitment to spiritual growth and mindfulness.

Weekly Assemblies

- Weekly assemblies are held for each year group, led by senior leaders. These assemblies are aligned with the Gospel of the week and the Salford Diocese calendar, ensuring that our spiritual life is rooted in the teachings of the Church.

Student Leadership in Prayer Life

• Our Student Leadership Team plays a growing and vital role in guiding the prayer life of the school. They act as role models for their peers, promoting engagement in spiritual activities and encouraging a culture of prayer and reflection.

Feast Days and Significant Celebrations

• Our plan of provision includes the celebration of key feast days such as St. George, St. David, St. Patrick, and St. Andrew, the patron saints of the United Kingdom.

Additionally, we honour the feast days of our form patron saints and other holy figures, including St. Mother Teresa, St. Oscar Romero, St. Francis of Assisi, and Brother Roger of Taizé.

Mass and Sacramental Opportunities

• We celebrate Mass at key liturgical times and on Holy Days of Obligation during term time. These celebrations provide opportunities for the entire school community to come together in worship.

• We strive to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, depending on clergy availability. This sacramental opportunity is integral to our commitment to the spiritual development of our pupils.

Through these provisions, we aim to create an environment where prayer and liturgy are central to the life of our school, fostering a deep sense of community, faith, and personal growth among all pupils and staff.

Annual Plan of masses/liturgies that are celebrated*
All Saints' Welcome Mass
All Saints' Day Mass (HDO)
Remembrance Day Service
Advent Liturgies
Epiphany Assemblies (HDO)
Holocaust Memorial Service
Ash Wednesday Mass
Lenten Assemblies
Oscar Romero Feast Day
Easter Liturgies
Easter Mass
St Peter and St Paul Assemblies (HDO)
Year 11 Leavers Mass (after school)
All Saints' End of Year Mass

* Dates of these events are on the school calendar

5. 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 All Saints' 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.

6. 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, particularly in their role as Form Tutors. 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, and on a monthly basis through our Sharing Good Practice sessions that take place on a Wednesday morning, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

7. 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 by the Deputy Headteacher working alongside the staff member responsible for prayer and liturgy.

8. Review

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