



St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

In accordance with To Love You More Dearly: The Prayer & Liturgy Directory

Mission Statement

At St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School, our mission is to know, to love and to serve. We are a Christ-centred community in which prayer and liturgy are at the heart of school life. Through a rich and authentic life of prayer, pupils and adults are invited to encounter Christ, grow in faith and be sent to live the Gospel in service of others.

1. Context and Purpose

This policy sets out how prayer and liturgy are understood, planned, celebrated, resourced, monitored and evaluated at St Aloysius'. It reflects the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, To Love You More Dearly, and the expectations of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school form part of the prayer and liturgical life of the whole Church. They are not an alternative to parish worship but are celebrated in a way appropriate to the educational setting and the age and capacity of pupils.

The purpose of our provision is to help the school community become reflective, recognise and experience the presence of God, deepen a living relationship with Jesus Christ and develop a mature spiritual life.

2. Statement of Requirement

The school provides daily prayer and liturgy for all pupils in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. Prayer and liturgy are distinct from curriculum Religious Education and do not form part of the 10% curriculum time allocated to RE.

The school recognises the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from prayer and liturgy. Any parent considering withdrawal is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. A formal written request for withdrawal is to be sent to the Headteacher. Any request will be respected and appropriate arrangements made in accordance with legal and diocesan requirements.



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3. Guiding Principles

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life and mission of the school.
- Christ is at the centre of the school's prayer and liturgical life.
- Scripture has a privileged place and is proclaimed with reverence.
- Provision follows the liturgical year and draws pupils into the seasons, feasts and celebrations of the Church.
- Prayer and liturgy are inclusive, age-appropriate and accessible, while remaining authentically Catholic.
- Pupils develop progressively the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to participate in, prepare and lead prayer and liturgy.
- Prayer engages the whole person through Scripture, symbol, sacred space, silence, music, movement and communal response.
- Participation is more than performance: pupils are given space for interior reflection and an authentic response to God.
- Prayer and liturgy should lead to transformation and Christian action in daily life.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Governing Body

- Ensure prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life and mission of the school and reflect the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- Approve, review and share this policy with stakeholders.
- Ensure a named Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator is in place.
- Ensure appropriate resources, staff time and budget are available.
- Receive monitoring and evaluation information and ensure identified developments are addressed.



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4.2 Headteacher

- Hold ultimate responsibility for implementing this policy as spiritual leader of the school community.
- Work in partnership with the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and local clergy.
- Ensure leaders and staff receive appropriate formation and training.
- Model reverent and meaningful participation in prayer and liturgy.
- Ensure prayer and liturgy are reflected in school development planning.

4.3 Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

- Maintain an Annual Plan of Provision identifying liturgical seasons, key celebrations, Masses, opportunities for Reconciliation and other significant liturgies.
- Ensure daily planned prayer is provided for all pupils and is appropriate to age and ability.
- Support progressive pupil participation in the planning, preparation, celebration and evaluation of prayer and liturgy.
- Provide appropriate resources and induction for new staff.
- Coordinate staff formation and professional development.
- Monitor and evaluate provision and report to the Headteacher and governors.
- Collaborate with local clergy, the parish and diocesan advisers.

4.4 Staff and Pupils

All adults contribute to the spiritual life of the school. Teachers and support staff facilitate prayer with pupils and teach them how to participate meaningfully. Pupils are progressively supported to take active, age-appropriate roles in preparing and leading prayer and liturgy; leadership is formed and guided rather than simply delegated.



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5. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Prayer is woven into the daily rhythm of school life. Provision is planned across the long, medium and short term so that the community experiences both the regular pattern of Catholic prayer and the changing seasons of the liturgical year.

- Daily prayer: morning prayer, prayer before and/or after meals, and prayer at the end of the day.
- Whole-school and phase prayer and liturgy, with Scripture and the liturgical calendar at the centre.
- Weekly class prayer and liturgy, with increasing pupil participation in preparation and leadership.
- Regular celebration of Mass, including appropriate holy days, feast days and significant school occasions.
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and penitential prayer, particularly in Advent and Lent.
- Seasonal celebrations during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, together with Marian devotion and the celebration of saints' days.
- Prayer opportunities for staff and governors, supporting their own spiritual formation.
- Links with parish and diocesan celebrations wherever appropriate.



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6. Celebration of the Word: Gather, Word, Response, Mission

The school uses the flexible four-part pattern described in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory for celebrations of the Word.

Element	Purpose
Gather	The community recognises that God has called us together and is prepared to pray and listen.
Word / Listen	Sacred Scripture is proclaimed reverently. The Word is the high point of a celebration of the Word.
Response	The community responds to God through prayer, silence, song, intercession, symbol or another appropriate form.
Mission	Those gathered are sent out, transformed by what they have heard and celebrated, to live the Gospel in service of others.

7. Common Prayers and Progressive Formation

Pupils are progressively introduced to and become familiar with the shared repertoire of Catholic prayers identified in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.

8. Inclusion and Participation

St Aloysius' welcomes pupils, staff and visitors from different Christian traditions, other faiths and those of no particular faith. All are treated with dignity and respect.

Adaptations are made for age, SEND and individual need without diminishing the integrity of the celebration. Pupils are helped to be present, attentive, reflective and appropriately participative according to their capacity.

9. Training and Formation

New staff receive induction into the Catholic prayer and liturgical life of the school. Individual training needs are identified and addressed, and whole-staff formation in prayer and liturgy is provided at least annually. Formation focuses not only on how to lead prayer, but on developing understanding of Catholic liturgy, Scripture, the liturgical year and meaningful pupil participation.



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10. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and liturgy are planned at three levels: long-term planning across the year, medium-term planning across each term, and short-term preparation for particular celebrations. The Annual Plan of Provision translates this policy into practical provision and is reviewed in the light of previous monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring confirms that planned provision is taking place and identifies support or adaptations that may be needed. Evaluation considers the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy, with priority given to participation, reflective engagement and the difference prayer makes to the life of the community rather than treating prayer and liturgy as a lesson to be graded.

- Pupil voice and pupil reflection.
- Staff, parent, clergy and governor feedback where appropriate.
- Observation of prayer and liturgy and the quality of participation.
- Planning and evaluation records, including the school prayer and liturgy tracker.
- Evidence such as photographs, pupil planning sheets and reflections where appropriate.
- Reporting to the Headteacher and governing body, with actions feeding into future planning and school development.

13. Partnership with Parents, Parish and Diocese

The school works closely with local clergy and parish communities so that pupils experience themselves as part of the wider Church. Parents and carers are kept informed about key liturgical events and are invited to appropriate celebrations. Where helpful, resources are shared to support prayer in the home e.g. Prayer Bags. The school maintains liaison with the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service and responds to diocesan formation and guidance.

Date September 2026

Review September 2029