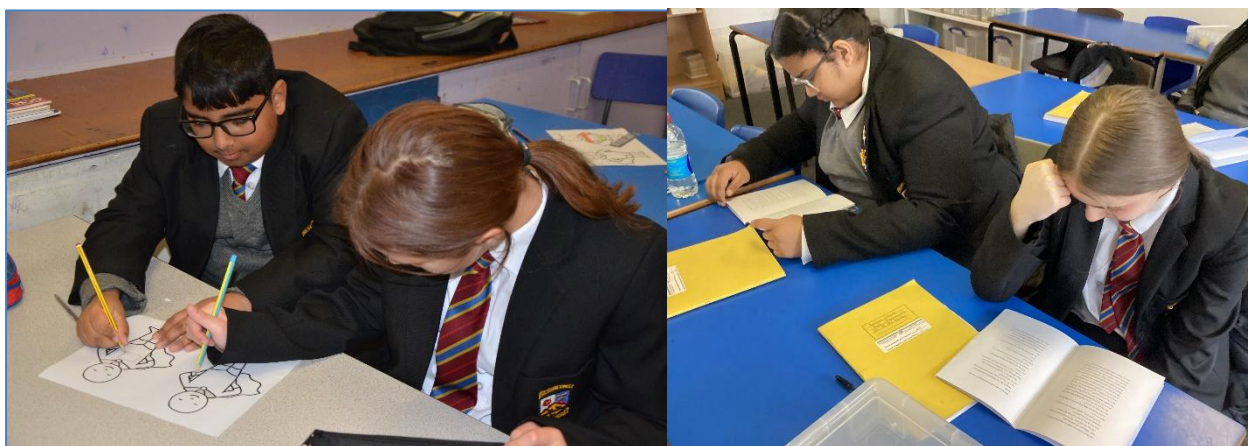




Saint John Wall Catholic School
A Catholic School For All

Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

"Go, worship the Lord. Even your families may go with you.."
Exodus 10:24

INTRODUCTION

Our Mission Statement: 'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'. Our prayer and liturgy provision is bespoke to our school community and accessible to each and every unique child.

An intrinsic part of the school day is prayer and liturgy. It is the outward expression of our inward journey towards our full relationship with God.

Prayer and Liturgy is an opportunity for pupils and staff to explore their own spirituality and it contributes to our school's statutory obligation to provide opportunities for the school community's spiritual and moral development. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENT

We acknowledge the Diocesan requirement that there must be **three** acts of prayer for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship in school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill this requirement. We also acknowledge that prayer/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 worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson.

The responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. Governors are informed of Prayer and Liturgy through termly reports at committee meetings.

Through our prayer and liturgy, pupils will become familiar with the common prayers of the Church at an age-related level.

At St John Wall, there are three moments of prayer throughout the day. The first is the daily reflection/Celebration of the Word at the start of the school day. The second will take place at lunchtime. These are set lunchtime prayers for the whole school to use. The third moment of prayer is at the end of the school day, on Teams at 3.05pm. The whole school joins together to pray as a community focusing on a key theme/liturgical event.

THE AIMS OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

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

- To contemplate the mystery of God.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore personal belief and faith
- To respond to what God calls them to be (Vocation).
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos of shared values.
- To develop the skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection interpretation empathy, mediation.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and to 'give worth to'
- Celebrate our Catholic School for All

THE PLACE OF PRAYER AND LITURGY IN THE LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

As a Catholic School for All, 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.

Examples of Prayer and Liturgy:

- Regular year group 'Celebration of the Word'
- Year masses and class masses at the local parish, and in the school chapel
- Prayer in the Chapel
- Lunchtime prayer/grace
- Whole school Afternoon prayer
- Welcome mass for Year 7
- Whole school mass at start of every term
- Service at end of term
- Daily reflections in form time
- Reconciliation Services
- Form Led 'Celebration of the Word'

IMPLEMENTATION

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school character.
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery.
- Provide an opportunity for reflection and spiritual development.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the school.

The following are prepared and reviewed by the Chaplaincy Team and SLT:

- Prayer resources for each form tutor.
- Values@ PowerPoint including daily reflection
- Afternoon Prayer
- Liturgical calendar including rotas for Celebration of the Word, form prayers, year masses, and beginning and end of term mass or service.
- Celebration of the Word proforma, including a mental health and careers/vocations tip.
- Support from Head of Catholic Life for preparing Prayer and Liturgy
- Appropriate poster, prayers and artifacts to create a focal part for worship in each tutor room (science laboratories, DT rooms have boards for safety reasons)
- Induction for new staff, ECTs and ITTs on the distinctive nature of Catholic Schools, spiritual development across the curriculum, and tutor responsibilities with regard to the three acts of prayer.
- Form time reflection activity based on the messages of the Celebration of the Word

MONITORING AND REVIEW

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by governors and senior leaders 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 worship.

Ratified by Governors: 01/12/2025

Review Date: 01/12/2028

(This policy will remain in force beyond the review date if no updates are required)