



**ST MARY
QUEEN OF
MARTYRS**
VC ACADEMY

St Mary Queen of Martyrs VC Academy

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

July 2025

Policy reviewed and updated: July 2025

Policy due to be reviewed: July 2026

Mission Statement

Be the best that you can be, Jesus loves you always

Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Intrinsic to the nature and purpose of our school, prayer and liturgy celebrates the unceasing presence of God in our lives. Through these times, be it individual, class or whole school, we give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God.

It is our loving response, in both words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him.

Through highlighting the importance of mission and going forth after prayer and liturgy, we reinforce the message of St Mary.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be daily prayer and liturgy for all pupils and that the inclusion of a prayer within an assembly does not meet this requirement. At St Mary Queen of Martyrs, assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy are distinct acts. Whilst, on occasion, they may happen at the same gathering, it will be made clear to the children what that difference is.

Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time and as such will not be considered as any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Aims

- ❖ Help the children to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God
- ❖ Allow children to experience deeper moments with God through a range of prayerful experiences.
- ❖ Support children in contemplating the mystery of God
- ❖ Develop an increasing understanding of prayer in all forms as a way of helping us to grow in our relationship with God and each other
- ❖ Support children as seeing themselves as unique and valued individuals within the Christian family
- ❖ To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- ❖ Allow children to explore their own beliefs
- ❖ Provide opportunities to respond to and celebrate life
- ❖ Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit

Principles

- ❖ During acts of prayer and liturgy, we raise our hearts, minds and voices to God.
- ❖ A celebration of the presence of God within individual lives and that of the school family.
- ❖ High quality and engaging time which is intrinsic to the lives of individuals and the school.

- ❖ Support the Spiritual development of all members of the school community
- ❖ Positive liturgical experience at an age appropriate level for all children and adults within our school community.
- ❖ Experience a variety of ways in which to pray
- ❖ Understanding that following prayer, we go forth to share with others

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy will take place in line with the liturgical seasons of the Church.

	Prayer and Liturgy	Led by	Location
Monday	Whole School	Teaching Staff	Hall
Tuesday	Prayer and Praise	Teaching Staff	Hall
Wednesday	Gospel Worship	Teaching Staff	Hall
Thursday	Class Prayer and Liturgy	Class teachers	In classrooms
Friday	Little Lectio	Class teachers	In classrooms

Throughout the year, there will be many other opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy: some planned and some spontaneous as chosen by the children. These include, but are not limited to the following.

- Throughout the year, Mass will be celebrated both in school and at our Parish Church of St Mary Queen of Martyrs. This will be as classes and as a whole school. Wherever possible, our parents and the Parish family will be asked to join us.
- Stay and Pray. Child-led prayer and liturgy will take place in each class every term where parents and carers will be invited to join their children to experience this special time.
- Prayer Groups: Taking place across the lunch times, children will have the opportunity to join informal prayer when they feel they would like to.
- Rosary Club will run through the months of October and May.
- As part of the RE curriculum, teachers will plan along with the children, a liturgy to celebrate the learning within a topic. This also provides an opportunity for liturgical education.
- Reconciliation services will take place for children within Key Stage Two during Advent and Lent.
- Advent Liturgies will take place to which the School and Parish Families will be invited.
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Lenten Service of Reconciliation
- In the final week of the Spring Term, the school community will come together to remember the events of Holy Week through drama, song, prayer and dance.
- Prayer stations will take place three times a year: Advent, Lent and Pentecost.
- Special days in the Church and Secular calendar will be remembered. For example, Harvest, key feast days, Remembrance
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Chaplaincy

Working across our Trust schools, we are fortunate to have a dedicated Chaplaincy Team. Support is offered in all areas of prayer and liturgy for both children and staff on an individual school basis and as a whole Trust.

There are occasions within the school year when the team lead days of prayer and mission or other special events.

Autumn Term

- School Day of Prayer
- Junior Chaplaincy Teams' Commissioning Day
- Mini Vinnie Commissioning Day
- Staff reflection evening
- Staff retreat

Spring Term

- Mission Day
- Staff Reflection Evening
- Feast of St Cuthbert

Summer Term

- Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Be Spirited Day
- Staff reflection evening
- First Holy Communion reflection Day

Liturgical Formation

We are aware that children do not understand how to plan meaningful prayer and liturgy simply by observation and participation. Therefore, staff support the children in their understanding of the development of prayer and liturgy at an age-appropriate level. Children will begin to make suggestions for example how to gather, in the early years and this will progress to children in KS2 planning with greater independence. Through the use of the resource, Pray 2gether, children will be supported in their growing independence.

Furthermore, children will be exposed to a number of alternative ways to pray, e.g through art or journalling, which they will be able to incorporate into child-led worship and hopefully, their own lives.

At the end of each of the Come and See topics, classes will plan a liturgy to celebrate the learning which has taken place within that unit.

Recording

Whole school Prayer and Worship will be found on the staff shared area online.

Class prayer and liturgy may be planned using the school proforma, it may follow the 4-part liturgy or it be more informally. Planning sheets, photographs, pupils' contributions and reflections and evaluations will be kept in the class floor book.

Prayer Spaces

Each class has a dedicated prayer space, which is cared for by the children if appropriate and monitored by the Chaplaincy Team. It reflects the liturgical seasons. All spaces have the correct coloured cloth, a Bible, a Crucifix and a candle as a minimum expectation. At different times of the year, staff or children may choose to put additional, appropriate items on the space.

Prayer stops are placed around school and there are outside quiet areas which encourage children to take part in spontaneous prayer.

Parental involvement and engagement.

We will take the opportunity to invite parents and carers in to school to share in Prayer and Liturgy alongside their children. Parental links will be encouraged through the sending home of Advent Prayer Bags.

Parish Links

We are proud of our Parish Links which allows us to celebrate mass within school and to which parishioners are invited to attend.

Staff Prayer

Each Wednesday morning, the staff come together in prayer. This is led alternatively by the school chaplain and members of staff.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The responsibility for the monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy lies with the Head of School and the Deputy Head of School who is also the RE lead. This will ensure that the quality of prayer and liturgy within school remains of a high quality and supports the understanding of the children.

This monitoring will be done primarily through observation, pupil voice and looking at the class collective worship floor books.

On a daily basis, children will be encouraged to evaluate acts of Prayer and Liturgy either formally or informally. Their voice will be used to inform future worship.

Further Quality Assurance

Termly visits to school will be made by an Executive leader from within St Cuthbert's Academy Trust to ensure high standards are maintained in prayer and liturgy.

On a termly basis, the Head of School reports on prayer and liturgy at the local scrutiny board, with foundation governors. This incorporates the actions and impact school has taken against the Catholic School Inspectorate.