Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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12. **Introduction**

In His name we gather. All prayer and liturgy is directed to the glory of His name and for our holiness. To be holy is to try and to come closer to God, and through our work in Catholic education, through the support of this policy, we aim to provide a framework for the Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust, for children, supported by staff to grow in that holiness. As Jesus reminds us in, Psalm 23, “ *The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”* Through our continued lifting of our hearts and minds to God across all of our Trust schools, we are reminded through scripture, to offer continual thanksgiving, praise and reflection to our Father.

The greatest prayer we have is the sign of the cross which should ground what we do or say, mark ourselves as His disciples and call on His name to be our courage and strength. Prayer and liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos across all of our schools, and when staff join schools within our Trust, they take on the role of leading and modelling good practice in prayer for our pupils.

As a Trust, we aim to provide a rich variety of prayer and liturgy opportunities and resources which seek to deepen our children’s sense of belonging to both their own school community and the wider Church. Ultimately, our aim as Catholic educators is that children are informed by their faith to discern contemporary culture in an engaged way. Our schools are not solely educational institutions, but they are also communities animated by the Gospel (Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn), for it is by recognizing Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy, and growing closer to Him, that we become closest to God.

**The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust is centered on the love of Christ, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church under the Diocese of Shrewsbury. Within every one of our schools, spiritual development is at the core of all we do, with pupils being provided with a rich and varied prayer life, to support their relationships with God, each other and themselves. Daily acts of prayer allow pupils to offer praise, glory and thanksgiving to God, and frame their own spiritual development in the context of today’s world. We aim to teach and foster the Gospel values of love of God and our neighbour, through our curriculums, Chaplaincy events, staff development and leadership. The work of the schools within the CCCAT is conducted in accordance with the Rites, Practices and Observances of the Roman Catholic Church.

**What is prayer**

*“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words”*

*- St Francis of Assisi*

The word prayer signifies to us ways communicating with God, we have many ways to do this e.g. silence of our hearts, symbols and acts, words, liturgies etc. Each school within our Trust has a wide range of experiences for our children to communicate with God our creator.

**Aims of this Policy**

**It is the responsibility of our Catholic schools to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:**

• Names and celebrates God as being present and active in our human experience

• Is in line with our Catholic tradition

• Develops within our pupils the qualities of:

·Reverence

·Contemplation

·Reflection

·Empathy

·Meditation

·To enrich religious experience

·To grow in liturgical understanding

·To reinforce positive attitudes

·To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

1. **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 recognize 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)).

The school’s 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.

Each school within our Trust will have a set prayer and liturgy provision which provides pupils, in combination with their academic studies, to experience the fullness of liturgy that the Church has to offer.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

1. **Roles and Responsibilities**

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school’s life and mission, 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 the school (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 a Catholic school

**(b) Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

• Opportunities for staff retreat/ formation/ reflection/ training are supported

• 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

• They work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy in their respective school, utilising guidance from the Trust Chaplain, and Trust priest where necessary

• 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) Trust Chaplaincy and Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators**

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust has a Trust Chaplain who is available to support with Chaplaincy support for Trust schools. Each of those responsible for prayer and liturgy in each school utilizing support and guidance from the Trust Chaplain, 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 as well as with the rites and traditions of the Catholic Church.

* Each school will have an annual plan of provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, patronal feasts as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments, in accordance with children’s stage of sacramental formation as well as understanding of faith.
* 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, for example pupils in older year groups can, through formation, be trained to deliver prayer and liturgy to younger year groups. Each schools individual approach can be found in Appendix B
* Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils. This includes Trust wide materials, materials available on request from the Chaplain, as well as the Chaplain being able to direct schools to resources as necessary
* Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required, this is done on the Trust induction day for new staff, as well as within schools so staff have more specific guidance regarding the charism of each respective school as well as their patronal celebrations, form saints and Chaplaincy provision
* Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities, both within the Trust, as deemed necessary by the diocese, as well as on request from the Trust Chaplain.

• Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feedback into planning for future liturgies

* Prayer and liturgy is recorded: on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources; planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy; through displays, collections of pupils’ contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc. Each schools individual approach can be found in Appendix C

• 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

• Liaison with the Diocese of Shrewsbury is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

**(d) Curriculum Leader of Religious Education**

* Curriculum, prayer and RE leads will comply with Diocesan Protocols for a committed working relationship between the Diocese and the Catholic Multi Academy Trust Company
* They will ensure that continual communication with and, where appropriate, seek support and guidance from the Diocesan education service.

(e)Teachers are expected to:

• Ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church

• Ensure that there are opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy to be delivered Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for prayer and liturgy

**(f)Pupils are expected to:**

• Participate in acts of prayer and liturgy in a respectful and reverent way

* Pupil Leadership examples: Mini Vinnie’s, Youth SVP, Student Chaplains, Prayer Angels, Worship Leaders

**(g) Parents are expected to:**

• Promote a positive attitude towards prayer and liturgy

1. **Overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision**

Available to all Trust schools is a Liturgical Year guidance document, that allows staff to have an overview of key seasons, feast days and celebrations that fall within each half term. This allows our staff to view the Church’s calendar in line with their school structure, and celebrate whichever feasts are taking place while children are in school. This document is accessible via the Trust Share Point, as well as support given from the Trust chaplain where necessary.

\*Please see Appendix B for a school specific overview that outlines the daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy offered in the school.

**(h) Eucharist**

The Trust priest or local clergy to the school will lead courses on the Ministry of the Word and Ministry of Holy Communion across the Trust.

Children and staff should have regular opportunities to attend Mass within school, where possible also having Masses for Holydays of Obligation and patronal feast days.

**5. Celebration of the Word Format**

Celebration of the Word should follow the “Gather, Word/ Listen, Response, Send” format. Staff should be offered training on how to prepare Celebration of the Word, so that they can facilitate student led prayers.

**6. 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 the school 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.

**7.Safeguarding**

As part of taking part in acts of daily prayer and worship with children, we also take our duty of safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate each schools well established safeguarding procedures.

**8. Training and formation**

All new staff will be supported during Trust induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. 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, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

**9. 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, governors and directors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

**10. Review**

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

**Appendix A**

**Mission Statement**

Together at St. Joseph’s we learn to love,

Following Jesus,

Sharing God’s gifts

Building God’s world

This policy is designed to support the Religious Life of the School through Prayer and Worship and is applicable to those involved in prayer experiences within the St Joseph whole school community.

We offer at least​​​ three opportunities for our students to experience prayer throughout the school day.  All classrooms have a designated sacred space to foster the prayer experiences of our children.

## Prayer ​and Worship

​Integral to the life of a Catholic school, prayer (fostering a personal and living relationship with God) and worship (adoration of God) have the potential to nourish the spiritual growth of all members of the school community. Prayer and worship help create a sense of purpose and identity within the community. The three elements of prayer and worship encouraged at St Joseph’s are: Christian prayer, celebrating liturgy and sacraments and ritualising everyday life.

​​The life of faith is expressed in acts of religion. The teacher will assist children to open their hearts in confidence to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through personal and liturgical prayer.

Prayer – contributes to the faith growth of individuals and the building of a Christian community

Children at St Joseph’s are invited to regular prayer:

* ​Daily morning prayer
* Daily grace KS1 and The Angelus in KS2
* Daily afternoon prayer – St Joseph’s School Prayer
* Weekly Mass (Years 3 to 6 children to volunteer to attend Mass with parishioners in the church)
* Weekly Meditation – Meditative prayer is a prayerful quest engaging thought, imagination, emotion and desire. This may include readings, reflection, journaling, silence and stillness.

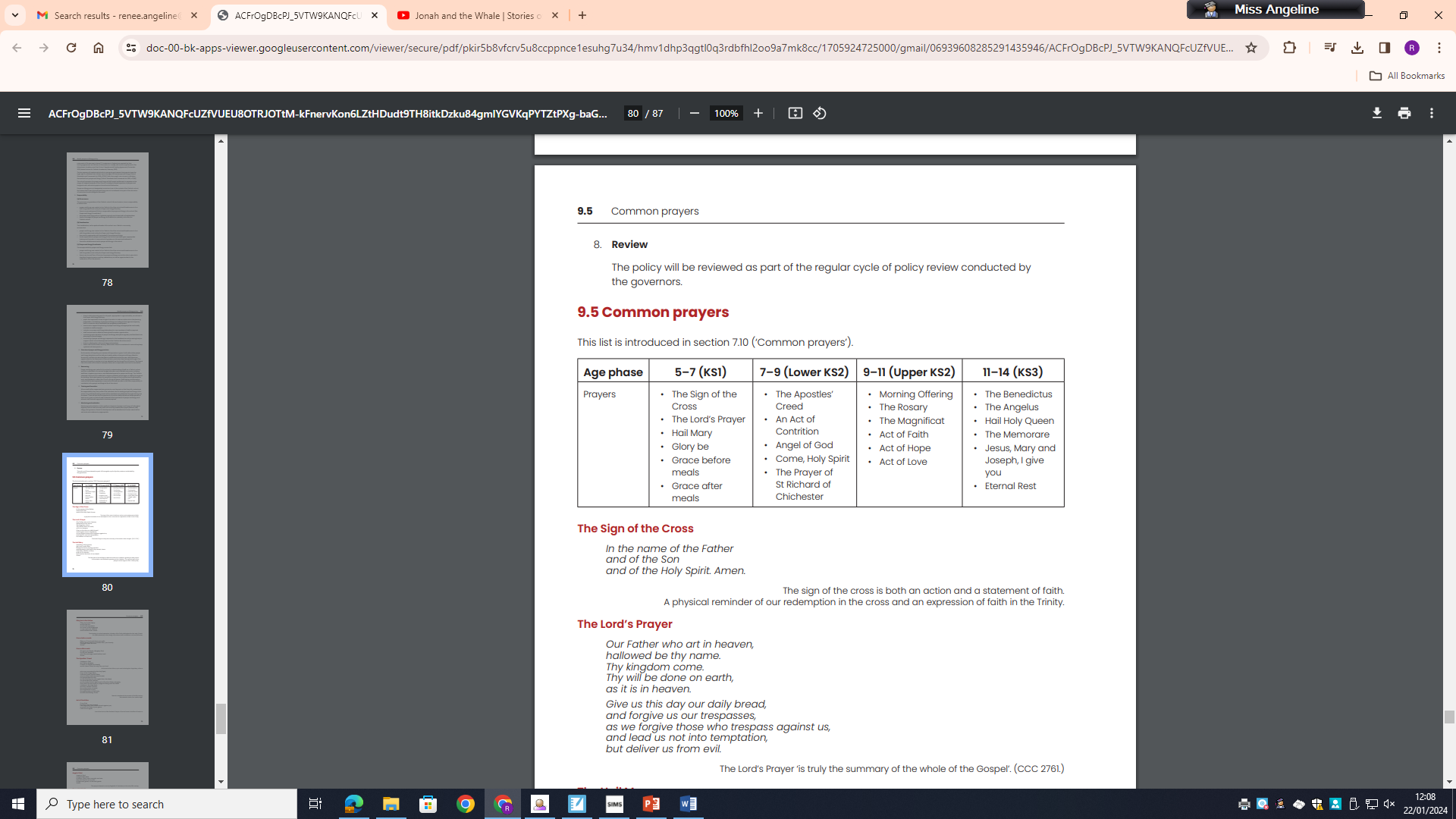
At St Joseph’s, children will experience a variety of formal and informal expressions of prayer, appropriate to their age and development. We will teach and learn all prayers as outlined in the prayer scope and sequence from the Religious Education Curriculum.

* Each classroom will establish and maintain a sacred, reflective space. Children will be involved in creating these spaces.
* Each class will participate in meditative prayer once a week.

Liturgy and Sacraments – are the formal, public prayer and worship of the church. At St Joseph’s we familiarise students with words, actions and gestures, symbols and structures. Celebration of liturgy both reflects and influences what it is we proclaim, who we are proclaiming and what we do. At St Joseph’s we celebrate Mass as a school and parish community on at least four occasions throughout the year:

* ​​ Ritualising everyday life – occurs through rituals combining words, actions and symbols that make meaning of the mystery of life in the light of the gospel. At St Joseph’s we affirm the sacredness of everyday life by recognising and celebrating God​​ in the created world, in relationships with others and in events and experiences. We celebrate prayer rituals acknowledging rites of passage and moments of grief and loss, joy and celebration. We encourage children who have lost family members or close family friends to light candles in church and pray with them.

At St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, the children are taught traditional Catholic prayers in certain year groups. These prayers can be used at home to support parents in developing their children's knowledge of prayer and to continue to develop their children's understanding of what the words mean to us as Christians today.



* The Angelus

**Proposal for Catholic Life 2024/2025:**

**Liturgical Services**

These will happen once a month with Fr Sean leading the service in church at 2pm. The whole school will attend these services along with families of the class leading the service.

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| **Date** | **Theme** | **Class to assist with prayers and readings** |
| 16.9.24 | **New Year** | Year 6 |
| 7.10.24 | **Month of Rosary** | Year 5 |
| 4.11.24 | **Month of Holy Souls** | Year 3/4 |
| 16.12.24 | **Christmas** | Key Stage 2 |
| 6.1.25 | **Epiphany** | Year 6 |
| 10.3.25 | **Lent** | Year 5 |
| 7.4.25 | **Holy Week** | Key Stage 2 |
| 9.6.25 | **Pentecost** | Year 5 |
| 23.6.25 | **Sacred Heart** | Year 6 |
| 21.7.25 | **End of Year** | Key Stage 2 |

**Adoration**

Children to be led on a journey with Jesus using scripture and meditation. They will also listen to Gregorian Chant.

Dates are as follows:

18.11.24

09.12.24

26.1.25

24.3.25

19.5.25

07.7.25

**Rosary**

Faith Leaders will recite rosary in church each Friday of October and May.

**Stations of the Cross**

Faith Leaders will recite rosary in church each Friday of Lent.

**Crowing of Our Lady**

06.05.25- Children to process around the playground and into the church following the statue of Our Lady. Reciting the Hail Mary and singing Flowers of the Rarest and Immaculate Mary.

**Sacramental Programme**

Details updated annually.

**Masses**

Children will be asked by Faith Leaders in school if they wish to attend Mass. Children that do, will go to midday Mass each **Wednesday** with Miss Angeline.

**School Church Choir**

Weekly lessons for chosen children to build a school choir with a vision to come to church and sing at Sunday Mass on a monthly basis.

**Thursday Rosary and Scripture with Fr Sean**

Commencing 19.9.24 2:15pm

**Confessions**

2.12.24

31.3.25

**Jubilee Year**

**January 2025**: Our Launch Day will be 23rd January with Fr Sean joining us in school!

**February 2025:**Sacred meditations for each class led by Faith Leaders -A Journey with Jesus in Hope.

**March 2025**: St Joseph's Church Mission Day adoration with pilgrims from secondary schools

**April 2025**: Stay and Pray adoration with parents during Holy Week

**June 2025**: Pilgrimage to Shrewsbury Cathedral

**June 2025**: Delivering messages of hope to parish and local community

**July 2025** - Mark 10 Mission day and Revisiting our Mission Statement