

St Louis Catholic Academy, Newmarket
Part of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi
Academy Trust

Christ at the Centre: Children at the Heart
Loving to Learn: Learning to Love



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Approved by the Committee/Governing Body	November 2024
Signature of Chair of Governors	<i>Bethan Byrne</i>
Review date	November 2027

Aims:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.
- Through WITNESS, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace

Introduction:

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as a school within Our Lady of Walsingham Trust, responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy is overseen and monitored by the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Our School:

We promote 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

We ensure that everyone is able to participate

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in an age appropriate way. This may take many forms including:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy:

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop our shared Gospel Values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To participate fully

Principles:

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic Character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age.

In order to achieve the above, Prayer and Liturgy is organised as follows:

Monday – Gospel Assembly led by Headteacher

Tuesday – Celebration Assembly by Phase linked to the Gospel

Wednesday – In class prayer time

Thursday – Whole School Singing Assembly

Friday – Chaplain prepared and led assembly based on Gospel Values and the liturgical season

We take part in daily prayer including at the start of the day, Grace before lunch, Prayer of Thanks after lunch and end of day prayer.

Planning:

Prayer and Liturgy in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, the Gospel Values, significant Faith events and the curriculum.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
 - It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- Reconciliation is planned annually, during Lent

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated.

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Prayer and Liturgy, including TenTen.

Eucharist:

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Prayer and Liturgy strategy.

Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school Masses including at the start of each term
- Phase Masses and Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at OLISE Church.

Leavers Mass

End of Term services

Other Prayer and Liturgy Celebrations:

St Louis also celebrates the following occasions in a manner which reflects their importance to our community and school traditions:

- Seder Meal
- Easter Breakfast
- Pentecost
- Advent Service
- Carol Service

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3 within the parish of OLISE.