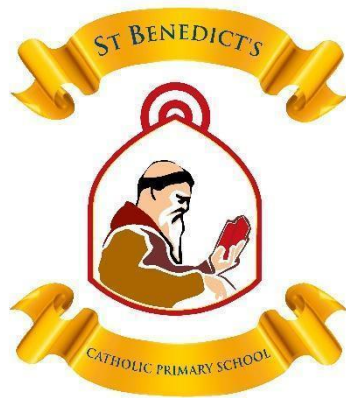


Prayer and Liturgy Policy



ST BENEDICT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date approved by Governors:	
Date approved by HT:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2025

Our Vision, Ethos and Values

St. Benedict's Catholic Voluntary Academy bases itself on the belief that we are all part of God's family and should treat each other with care, respect and love. We seek to build a strong partnership with parents and families and establish a school community that embodies and fulfills our school vision. We strive to promote the knowledge and values of the Catholic Faith through Celebration of the Word, so that each person grows even closer to God, takes responsibility within the Christian community and learns to be tolerant of all races and religious beliefs.

Vision

Our vision as a truly Catholic community with Christ at the heart of all we do, is to...

- Be grateful for all that we have, give thanks and praise God each day.
- Aspire to be the best we can be, knowing that we will learn and embrace all we can when we can.
- As children of God, we nurture the talents of each unique individual to be inspirational members of our community.
- In caring for the world in which we live, we foster the unique gifts of each child so they may serve and grow as disciples of faith and shine in the Glory of God.

Our Mission Statement

'Pray together, learn together'

The spirit of Saint Benedict is summed up in the motto 'Ora et Labora' which means 'Work and Pray'. Saint Benedict dedicated his life to working and praying. This is an ethos we promote to the children of our school.

Values



As a school we teach the children to withhold the values of goodness, peace, love, faithfulness, joy, gentleness, kindness, self-control and patience. We promote these values daily in the way we interact with each other in and out of school. Each child has a sticker chart and when these values are displayed, they are rewarded.

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 Celebration of the Word for all pupils. This is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy considers 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
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain,

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 a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

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

Prayer will not be confined to a Celebration of the Word. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, lunchtimes and in the evening. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is our very heart beat.

The Aims of Collective Worship

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 a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Definitions and forms of worship

Mass is at the centre of the celebration of our faith. We celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist as a faith community, praising alongside our parish community.

Liturgy has a distinct, formalised format that mirrors that of the Mass. There are four sections: Gathering (coming together as a prayer community); Word (listening to God as found in the scriptures); Response (prayer time, reflection or action to digest and ponder over God's word); Mission (taking the message from the liturgy out into our school, home, community and beyond).

Prayer, according to St. John Damascene, is the "raising of one's mind and heart to God." This can be vocalised or internal, contemplative prayer. We can use traditional prayers of the Church or our own thoughts and words.

Principles

All Celebration of the Word 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, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be daily (Outside the prayers of the Church).
- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday	Whole School	Linked to Sunday's Gospel
Tuesday	KS1- Key stage assembly KS2- Class Prayer and Liturgy	Linked to topics, liturgical and Virtues to live by.
Wednesday	KS1- Class Prayer and Liturgy KS2- Key stage assembly	Linked to topics, liturgical and Virtues to live by.
Thursday	Child led liturgies	Pray Together Book- Liturgical or Virtues
Friday	Whole School	Celebration

Progression in prayer- Appendix 1

Prayer and Liturgy in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', 'Be Still and Know', significant dates 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. There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community. We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

Whole School Prayer and Liturgy

The Head Teacher or Senior leaders lead the whole school in Prayer and Liturgy every two weeks, with individual classes leading worship in the weeks between. The theme is closely linked with the liturgical year so that all members of the school community have an understanding of the readings, colours and messages we listen to and see on Sunday at mass. However, this act of worship may address current issues, events in the week (both secular and religious) or other feasts in the Church's year. Friday's Assembly celebrates our children and the gifts given to us by God, sharing our achievements and talents. While this is not an act of worship within itself, it will begin or end with a form of shared prayer.

Key Stage Worship

Teachers lead Prayer and Liturgy in their Key Stage Assembly each week. This takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Class Prayer and Liturgy

Teachers in school seek to empower children; they lead and model good practice and also give children the opportunity to participate, take ownership of their learning and develop their own relationship with God. Teachers aim to give children a real voice in planning and leading worship. It is important that we all look to children as having an important role to play in leading our faith communities; Christ himself said, *"Let the little children come to me"* (Matthew 19:4), welcoming them as models of faith – and so should we. We will pray together as a class at regular intervals each day and share in Prayer and Liturgy daily, either as a whole school or an individual class. On a Tuesday and a Thursday, pupils and teachers lead worship within the classroom. This can be in any medium of worship. The theme for this worship may be based on our Come and See RE curriculum, the liturgical calendar, current events etc. The children will lead their own worship within the classroom at least once a week, though this is related to the pupils' age with regards to their level of involvement. (appendix 1)

Each class has a Prayer Space that changes regularly. This is a quiet area within the classroom setting where the children can encounter God at a time of their choosing. This usually involves some form of reading, reflection and action. Furthermore, prayers are said at key moments of the day such as morning, before and after lunch and at the end of the day in each class. In each prayer space there is a photograph of the Bishop and Pope and the wall has a scripture which has been chosen by class at the start of the year.

Parent Worship

Parents are invited to worship with our school community at key events in the year, such as the Y6 Leavers' mass. They are also welcomed to participate in giving glory to God during specific liturgical seasons, such as Advent and Lent. Parents are also invited to attend Stay and Pray sessions in every class, whereby they participate in the planning and delivery of our shared worship. This timetable is established across each Key Stage.

Mass

A Mass rota has been developed for the children in order to further the links between School and Parish. Children in KS2 attend Mass on a rotating system the first Friday of every month and every Friday during Advent and Lent. This allows our children to give glory to God and meet him in the Eucharist: the foundation of our Catholic faith.

Mass is celebrated regularly in school and parishioners are invited to share this with the children.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded using Liturgical Prayer planners which are used in conjunction with "Come and See" at the end of each topic. In addition to this, class teachers also will keep a record of their weekly worship in their 'Talking to God' book. More informal forms of prayer are recorded by a variety of means, including reflections, journaling and photographs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Prayer and Liturgy Leaders and Senior Leadership team will monitor classroom- based worship each term. Staff will be given feedback on the effectiveness and relevance of the acts of worship observed. Leaders also have drop in sessions weekly where teachers and children can come along and are given advice on how to plan a Liturgy.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Prayer and Liturgy . These include:

- Internet sites- Cafod, Mission together
- "Statements to Live by"
- "Come and See" topic collective worships.
- TenTen worships
- Daily Pray Together liturgies
- Card keyrings- highlighting prayer types.
- Cards to help children Gather, Respond and Go Forth.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship 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 at school and church
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Masses and Liturgies
- NPCAT masses
- Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y4.

Reconciliation

As a Catholic school we firmly believe in both seeking and granting forgiveness and restoration of broken friendships. Opportunities for children and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Advent and Lenten Reconciliation Services
- Regular Examination of Conscience

Marian Devotion

There are many opportunities to honour Mary the Mother of God throughout the year. Mainly:

- Parish led Rosary during October and May in school
- Parish Celebration of May Procession in school
- Rosary bags to go home
- Caple prayer activities

Catholic Social Teaching

At St Benedict's, we provide many opportunities for both children and staff to deepen their understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Social Teaching principles. We live out our faith in our community and the wider world. The values are rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. They are our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith. Our belief in God helps us to be global citizens. We teach the children about the dignity of the human person, how we are called to live as family and community, about rights and responsibilities, that we are called to stewardship, our responsibility for the poor and vulnerable, about the dignity and rights of workers and about solidarity and the promotion of peace. Through prayer and liturgy our children feel connected to these principles and strive to go out and make a difference to the world by having an impact on Social Justice.

Staff Prayer

Staff are encouraged to develop their own relationship with God and Spirituality. A variety of ways to pray are modelled and shared with staff at the beginning of meetings. The format follows the prayer of the Catholic Church.

Developing Prayer in the Home

Children are encouraged to pray at home with their families during key moments in the liturgical year. Each child takes home "The travelling Crib" during Advent, "The travelling Cross" during Lent and "The travelling Rosary" in October.

Parent prayer newsletters are sent home monthly.

Appendix 1

Stage	Journey in reflection and contemplation	Role in planning and leading worship
EYFS	<p>Reflect quietly.</p> <p>Begin to participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus.</p> <p>Begin to participate in age-appropriate key stage Christian meditation.</p>	<p>Leading other children making the sign of the cross and welcoming them to worship.</p> <p>With adult support select resources and set up a focus table. Towards the end of the year, children choose hymns linked to CW theme.</p>
Key Stage 1	<p>Participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus.</p> <p>Participate in age-appropriate key stage Christian meditation and begin to show understanding of the importance of stillness and quiet during times of reflection and prayer.</p>	<p>Building on EYFS to include: With support and scaffolding, select resources and set up a focus table linked to the CW theme.</p> <p>Leading children in song response. Sharing/writing prayers in response.</p>
Lower Key Stage 2	<p>Participate in class/whole key stage Christian meditation.</p> <p>Show understanding of the importance of stillness and quiet during times of reflection and prayer.</p> <p>When appropriate, follow up with response activities in class.</p>	<p>Building on Key Stage 1 Building a focus table related to a theme from a set of resources.</p> <p>Planning how children will gather, sharing scripture, sharing prayers in response, hymn and mission with increasing independence. Evaluate their worship with support.</p>
Upper Key Stage 2	<p>Participate in class/whole key stage Christian meditation.</p> <p>Demonstrate an appreciation of the elements needed for reflection, contemplation or prayer. E.g., Children choose own follow up activity as response.</p>	<p>Leading others in quiet, calming periods of mediation and prayer.</p> <p>Planning the whole of a worship using the gather, word, response, mission model.</p> <p>Provide children with theme or specific scripture to be the focus of the CW.</p> <p>Planning worship to carry out with younger groups of pupils.</p> <p>Evaluate their worship.</p>