

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL



PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY

Policy Adopted	April 2023
SLT Member Responsible	Ms V Qurrey
To be Reviewed	Every 2 years
Date of Next Review	May 2026
Headteacher	Ms V Qurrey Date: May 2023

The Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School is a Catholic learning community with a strong family ethos and Jesus Christ at its centre. We aim to ensure that "All May Have Life and Life to the Full".

UT VITAM HABEANT

At Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, we believe that prayer and liturgy and our acts of collective worship are integral to the life of the school.

Our ethos is one which nurtures the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially and intellectually. This is reflected in our worship.

We value our collective worship and especially times when large sections of the school community can come together to express their faith in traditional ways; such as Mass or Assembly or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day.

Families who send their children to this school are predominantly of Catholic faith background. There are pupils who are from practising Christian families and children from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We always recognise and respect the faith background of both staff and pupil families at all times.

AIMS

Through collective worship (prayer and liturgy) we aim to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- ❖ Grow in faith.
- ❖ Grow in understanding of others in the school and wider community.
- ❖ Deepen the sense of wonder about the world around them.
- ❖ Grow in confidence when reading prayer or an assembly.
- ❖ Acknowledge diversity and affirm each other in the school community.

PRACTICE

At Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School we combine acts of worship and assembly. There are Form and Year Group Assemblies, as well as a Key Stage Assembly each week. Pupils also take part in a House Assembly each week.

One of the Senior Leadership Team leads the 'Whole School' worship each week (we have Key Stage 3 together, and then Key Stage 4/5).

Pupils are involved in planning and supporting these assemblies. Pupils, including the Liturgy Representatives, lead the Year Group Assemblies. House Captains and the Head of House lead House Assemblies and the Rosary.

All key events within the Liturgical Year are marked in assemblies. Moreover, the 'Celebration of Mass' takes place throughout the year; either 'Whole School' Masses or a lunchtime voluntary Mass.

Masses take place to mark special events in the school's year, e.g., beginning of term, Year 11 leaving and the key event of the year for the school, our Founders' Day.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes which link to religious festivals, Saints' Days and key national and international events.

We also welcome our local priests and other organisations, such as CAFOD and the Mizen family to support our liturgies.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body.
- ❖ The Chaplaincy Lead is responsible for planning the calendar of assembly themes and liaising with the Liturgical Representatives to formulate a full liturgical events calendar.
- ❖ All teaching staff are encouraged to support the liturgical life of the school.