



**Blessed Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust**

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

**Autumn 2025  
(Awaiting ratification)**

***'Christ at our Centre, inspiring our pursuit of excellence'***

## **Introduction**

In keeping with our mission statement and vision as a Catholic academy trust we believe that we have a responsibility to see all grow and develop their faith and their spiritual life. This helps us a family of schools to ensure that all within our learning communities are reflective, prayerful and blessed with the gift of accompaniment throughout whatever life may hold for them.

At the centre of our spiritual prayer life is the message of Bishop Marcus Stock when he said:

‘The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.’

*‘Christ at the Centre’ 2012*

## **Context**

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; 70 Instrument of Government, clause 2).

As the Blessed Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust our funding agreement and Articles of Association to are required to comply with these requirements.

We are mindful that the law requires all maintained schools to recognise 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. 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.

## **Who is responsible?**

In line with our scheme of delegation the trustees have oversight of the Catholic life of our schools. This is a core team effort of all schools within the trust. The expectations of all are:

### **(a) Local governing body**

The local governing body have a key role as guardians of the Catholic school’s life and mission. It is expected that they will 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 individual school 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:

- 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
- 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) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator/senior lead**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy 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 an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- 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
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- 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 Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

### **Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

We expect all schools across the Blessed Holy Family Trust to provide a rich prayer life and liturgy across the daily and weekly life of the school. This will include opportunities for reflection and quiet contemplative prayer enabling pupils in the spirit of accompaniment for life.

Each school is expected to have in place:

- An overview plan of provision outlining the daily and weekly pattern of prayer life.
- Details of opportunities for the celebration of mass as a community throughout the year.
- Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Celebrations as a community for special events in the liturgical life of the Church and the school.

### **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.

### **Training and formation**

All new staff across each school will be supported during 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.

### **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, and governors.

The Headteacher and relevant senior leader for prayer and worship is expected to report directly on a regular basis to the local governing body.

The local governing body will identify a link governor for this crucial aspect of the work of the school.

The CEO will report to the Trust board on this aspect of the work of the schools. Each school will present on developments in this area to the Trust board directly at least annually.

Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

### **Review**

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

Ratified:

Signed:

Name: James Coyle, Chair of the Trust Board

Date: Autumn 2025

Date for

Renewal: Autumn 2026