St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Reviewed : September 2025

ST. ANNE LINE CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Wickhay,
Basildon
Essex.
SS15 5AF

Date of Policy:	September 2025
Date last review adopted by Governing Body:	September 2024
Date of next review:	September 2027

With Jesus, through the St Anne Line Way,
We Love, We Learn, We Share, We Pray.

Together, we grow Our School each day

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. As part of this, 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 our well- established Safeguarding procedures. The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or Church.

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

Principles

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy 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 kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help 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.

Responsibility

(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 reflect 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 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

Type	Frequency	Location	Led by
Morning prayer	Daily at 8.50am	Classroom	Teacher/Faith Disciple
Grace	Daily before lunchtime	Classroom	Teacher/Faith Disciple
Reflection	Daily after lunch	Classroom	Teacher
Evening prayer	Daily before home time	Classroom	Teacher/Faith Disciple
Personal prayer and reflection	Sporadic	Prayer room	n/a
Gospel assembly	Every Monday	Hall	DHT/PLL/Faith Disciples
Hymn Practice	Every Tuesday	Hall	RE Lead
Our History Matters Catholic Social Teaching	Every Wednesday	Hall	Teachers/Pupils
Class prayer and liturgy	Every Thursday	Classroom	Teacher/Pupils
Celebration assembly	Every Friday	Hall	HT
Celebration of The Word	Every half term	Hall	Pupil Led
New School Year Mass	First week of Autumn term	Church	Parish Priest / Year 6
Sacrament of Reconciliation	During Advent and Lent	Church	Parish Priest
Holy Days of Obligation	Throughout the year	Church	Parish Priest / All Year Groups
Christmas Carol Service	December	Church	Parish Priest / All Year Groups
St Anne Line Day Mass	Annually February	Church	Parish Priest / All Year Groups
Going Forth Mass	Annually June	Church	Parish Priest/FH Communicants
Stations of the Cross	Annually last day of term before Easter	Hall	Faith Council
Year 6 Leavers' Mass	Last day of school term	Church	Parish Priest / Year 6
Year 6 Retreat	Beginning and end of school year	De La Salle School	DLS School Chaplain
Staff Retreat	Last Wednesday of each term	Staffroom	RE Lead

- **there may be other times of Prayer and Liturgy added throughout the year**

St Anne Line Catholic Junior School Prayer and Liturgy Themes **Catholic Social Teaching Themes** First Half Term - Care of Creation Second Half Term - Preferential Option for the Poor		
Autumn 2025		
Week	**PERSON DELIVERING**	**THEME**
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	Pope Francis – Laudato Si (Genesis 1:31)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Leonardo DiCaprio (Psalm 24:1)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Pupil Leadership (HBG & As)	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	David Attenborough (Isaiah 55:12)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Steve Backshall (Job 12:7-10)
6	DHT	Gospel
6	CT	Prince William (Colossians 1:16)
7	DHT	Gospel
7	CT	St Francis of Assisi (Psalm 104:24)
8	DHT	Gospel
8	Faith Disciples	Children choose theme and plan
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	St Vincent de Paul (Matthew 25:35-40)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Cardinal Basil Hume (Proverbs 14:31)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Pupil Leadership (HCs)	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	St Margaret of Scotland (Luke 4:18)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Floella Benjamin (James 2:14-17)
6	DHT	Gospel
6	Year 5	Children choose theme and plan
7	DHT	Gospel
7	CT	Big Zuu (John 3:17-18)

St Anne Line Catholic Junior School Prayer and Liturgy Themes **Catholic Social Teaching Themes** First Half Term - Solidarity and Peace Second Half Term - Community and Participation		
Spring 2026		
Week	**PERSON DELIVERING**	**THEME**
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	Nelson Mandela (Romans 12-18)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Beyonce (Matthew 5:9)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Year 4	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	John Lennon (Hebrews 12:14)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Banksy (John 13:34)
6	DHT	Gospel
6	CT	Judy Dench (Ephesians 4:3)
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	Martin Luther King (Romans 12:5)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Barack Obama (Philippians 2:4)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Year 3	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	Little Mix (Psalm 133:1)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Ed Sheeran (Matthew 18:20)

St Anne Line Catholic Junior School Prayer and Liturgy Themes Catholic Social Teaching Themes First Half Term - The Dignity of Workers Second Half Term - Human Dignity		
Summer 2026		
Week	**PERSON DELIVERING**	**THEME**
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	Florence Nightingale (Colossians 3:23)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Lewis Hamilton (Ecclesiastes 3:13)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Faith Disciples	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	Mary Seacole (Isaiah 65:22)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Emmeline Pankhurst (James 5:4)
6	DHT	Gospel
6	CT	George the Poet (Deuteronomy 24:14)
1	DHT	Gospel
1	CT	Anne Frank (Genesis 1:27)
2	DHT	Gospel
2	CT	Anthony Joshua (James 2:1)
3	DHT	Gospel
3	Year 6	Children choose theme and plan
4	DHT	Gospel
4	CT	Nadia Hussain (Luke 6:31)
5	DHT	Gospel
5	CT	Ellie Simmonds (Matthew 22:39)
6	DHT	Gospel
6	CT	Doreen Lawrence (Leviticus 19:18)
7	DHT	Gospel
7	CT	Bear Grylls (Proverbs 22:2)

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, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefact and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained.

Training and formation

All new staff 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. 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 governors.

StAnne Line Catholic Junior School is a level one Rights' Respecting school. At the heart of our school is the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC). This is evident in our planning, policies, practice and ethos.

- **Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management**
  The best interests of Saint Anne Line pupils are a top priority in all actions. The values and principles of the CRC at the heart of this policy.
- **Standard B: The whole school community learns about the CRC**
  The Convention is made known to children and adults. They use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.
- **Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos**
  Children and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community, based on the CRC, in all areas and in all aspects of school life.
- **Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners**
  Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Saint Anne Line pupils develop the confidence, through their experience of an inclusive rights-respecting school community, to play an active role in their own learning and to speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.