



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Date of Approval:	18 th March 2026
Review frequency:	Annual
Next review date:	Spring 2027
Reviewed by:	Mrs L White, Headteacher

This policy was agreed by the FGB on 18th March 2026 and will be reviewed in Spring 2027, or sooner if required.

Mission Statement

St Anselm's is a community of faith, serving local families and providing a Catholic education.

We strive to work in partnership with parents and carers to:

- Inspire children to be ambassadors of Jesus through meaningful prayer, thoughtful reflection, exploration of the Gospel and acts of service;
- Ignite a love for life-long learning by encouraging and challenging children through purposeful learning opportunities;
- Include and value everyone, recognise and celebrate uniqueness and promote self-appreciation and mutual respect;
- Empower children to be ambitious, confident and aspirational now and in their vision for the future;
- Provide an environment where positive wellbeing and mental health ensures everyone feels safe, happy and loved as children of God.

The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'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.' (Marcus Stock (2012), *Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

Statement of Requirement

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;

Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (*The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement*, December 2020; *Model Articles for Catholic Academies*, February 2019).

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.

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 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

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

Daily Prayer

- Each day begins and ends with age-appropriate prayer, helping children connect with God and one another.
- Children pray at the beginning of lunch and at the end of lunch.
- Prayer is incorporated into class routines and key school events, encouraging children to develop a sense of reverence and relationship with God.
- Each Religious Education lesson begins and ends with a prayer and/or reflection.
- Prayers should be reverent, respectful and prayerful and can be led by any member of the school community.
- Prayer opportunities should offer children the opportunity for spiritual contemplation.

Daily and Weekly Prayer Opportunities

EYFS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bible Bag Prayer in class	Teacher led COTW in class	KS1 Gospel COTW in the hall	Teacher led COTW in class	Y6 Marians-led COTW or Rosary
Grace before meals in class	Grace before meals in class	Grace before meals in class	Grace before meals in class	Grace before meals in class
Grace after meals in class	Grace after meals in class	Grace after meals in class	Grace after meals in class	Grace after meals in class
Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class

KS1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bible Bag Prayer in class	Teacher led COTW in class	KS1 Gospel COTW in the hall	Pupil-led COTW in class	Y6 Marians-led COTW or Rosary
Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals

Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders
Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bible Bag Prayer in class	KS2 Gospel COTW in the hall	Teacher led COTW in class	Pupil-led COTW in class	Y6 Marians-led COTW or Rosary
Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals	Grace before meals
Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders	Grace after meals on the playground led by Y6 Worship Leaders
Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class	Evening prayer in class

Liturgical Celebrations

Liturgical seasons such as Advent, Lent, and Easter are celebrated through special celebrations of the word, prayers, retreat days and school Masses

Mass

The school year begins with a whole-school Mass and ends with a Mass at the Parish Church of St Vincent's. Throughout the year, Mass is celebrated in school once per term as part of our patron saint celebrations. In addition, the school community attends Mass at the church on Holy Days of Obligation during the year. The whole school community is also invited to celebrate together at a school Mass in the church on Sundays once per term (Six times per year).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are provided during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Specially crafted Celebrations of the Word give children opportunities for an examination of conscience, followed by individual confession with the parish priest and other local priests.

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 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.



Progression in Prayers at St Anselm's

Age Phase	EYFS and KS1 4 - 7	Lower KS2 7-9	Upper KS2 9-11
Common prayers	- The sign of the cross - The Lord's Prayer - Hail Mary - Glory Be - Grace before meals - Grace after meals - God our Father - Eternal Rest - Decade of the Rosary	- The Apostles' Creed - Act of Contrition - Angel of God - Come, Holy Spirit - The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	- Morning Offering - The Rosary - Hail Holy Queen - The Magnificat - Act of Faith - Act of Hope - Act of Love
School prayers	KS1 Mission Statement Prayer	KS2 Mission Statement Prayer	

EYFS and KS1

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The sign of the cross is both an action and a statement of faith.
A physical reminder of our redemption in the cross and an expression of faith in the Trinity.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

The Lord's Prayer 'is truly the summary of the whole of the Gospel'. (CCC 2761.)

The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The first part of the Hail Mary is biblical, drawn from Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the Annunciation and Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation. The second part of the prayer has its origins in 15th-century Italy.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning

is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

*The doxology is a short expression of praise of the Trinity dating back to the early Church.
It is used extensively in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotions such as the Rosary.*

Grace before meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts
which we are about to receive from your bounty.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Grace after meals

We give you thanks, Almighty God,
for all your benefits,
who live and reign, world without end. Amen.

God our Father

God our Father, I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light.
Amen.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

Based on the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for the Dead.

Decade of the Rosary

For a mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.

Lower KS2

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Based on baptismal documents of the 8th century but related to texts of an earlier origin.

Act of Contrition

O my God,
because you are so good,
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and with the help of your grace
I will not sin again.

One of the forms of the Penitent's Prayer of Sorrow found in the Rite of Penance.

Angel of God

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

The prayer is based on one by Reginald of Canterbury in the early 12th century.

Come, Holy Spirit

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that
by that same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*This prayer is a compilation of a number of liturgical texts drawn from the
Mass and Office of Pentecost and the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.*

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given me,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend
and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

Upper KS2

Morning Offering

O Jesus,
through the most pure heart of Mary,
I offer you all my prayers,
thoughts, works and sufferings of this day
for all the intentions of your most Sacred heart.

The Rosary

For each mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.

The Joyful Mysteries

(Recited Monday and Saturday)

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

The Visitation (Luke 1:39–45)

The Nativity (Luke 2:1–7)

The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–35)

The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

The Mysteries of Light

(Recited Thursday)

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)

The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1–12)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion (Mark 1:14–15; 2:3–12)

The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28–36)

The Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26–29)

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Recited Tuesday and Friday)

The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32–42)

The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:15–26)

The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31)

The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:15–17; Luke 23:27–32)

The Crucifixion (Luke 23:33–38, 44–46)

The Glorious Mysteries

(Recited Wednesday and Sunday)

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1–8)

The Ascension (Acts 1:6–11)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–12)

The Assumption (1 Thessalonians 4:13–19)

The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1; 14:1–5; Isaiah 6:1–3)

Prayer concluding the Rosary

[Hail Holy Queen]

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, whose only-begotten Son,
by his life, death and resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,
grant, we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries
of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise,
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen (Salve Regina)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears!
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Salve Regina is one of the Marian Anthems sung at Night Prayer.

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;
for behold, from this day forward,
all generations will call me blessed.

For the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
for those who fear him.

He has made known the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has exalted those who are lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
mindful of his mercy,
even as he promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his descendants for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

*Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55).
It is sung daily at Evening Prayer.*

Act of Faith

My God, I believe in you
and all that your Church teaches,
because you have said it,
and your word is true.

Act of Hope

My God, I hope in you,
for grace and for glory,
because of your promises,
your mercy and your power.

Act of Love

My God, because you are so good,
I love you with all my heart,
and for your sake,
I love your neighbour as myself.

Support for Scripture Readings

Every Scripture reading needs a proper introduction and response.

Find the part of the Bible that the Scripture comes from and use the appropriate introduction/response when reading in a COTW.

OLD TESTAMENT

Introduction				Response
A reading from the book of...	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Joshua Judges Ruth,	Ezra Nehemiah Tobit Judith Esther Job, Psalms Proverbs	Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon Wisdom of Solomon Sirach, Lamentations Baruch	<i>After the Scripture reading, end by saying:</i> The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God
A reading from the prophet...	Isaiah Jeremiah Jeremiah (in Lamentations) Baruch Ezekiel Daniel Hosea	Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum	Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai, Zechariah Malachi	
A reading from the (First/Second) book of...	Samuel Kings Chronicles Maccabees			

NEW TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT					
Introduction					Response
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles	Acts			After the Scripture reading, end by saying: The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God	
A reading from the letter of St Paul to...	Romans Galatians Ephesians	Philippians Colossians	Titus Philemon		
A reading from the (First/Second) letter of St Paul to...	Corinthians Thessalonians Timothy				
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews	Hebrews				
A reading from the letter of St...	James Jude				
A reading from the (First/Second/Third) letter of St...	Peter John				

GOSPEL READINGS

Introduction and response		Response
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to... Glory to you, O Lord (<i>while making the sign of the cross on their foreheads, lips and hearts</i>)	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	<i>After the Gospel reading, finish by saying:</i> The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pupil-led Worship Planner

What do we want to have on the prayer table?

We come together to pray.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God open our lips

And we shall praise your name

We Gather



The Word



We Respond 	
	
Our Mission 	

St pray for us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our celebration of the word has ended.

Thanks be to God