



Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2025–26

“Hand in hand with Jesus”

Mission Statement

Brother, sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Introduction

St Vincent de Paul RC Primary School is proud to be a Catholic school. In line with our mission, we provide pupils with daily opportunities to encounter Christ through prayer and liturgy. Rooted in the vision of the new *Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To Love You More Deeply*, we seek to form children who pray with confidence, live the Gospel joyfully, and participate fully in the liturgical life of the Church.

Prayer and liturgy are at the heart of school life. They are more than a legal requirement: they are an expression of who we are as a Catholic community, helping us to grow in faith, holiness, and love of neighbour.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in School Life

Prayer and liturgy at St Vincent's:

- Gives glory, honour, praise, and thanks to God.
- Forms pupils spiritually, morally, and culturally.
- Is central to our Catholic identity and daily life.
- Responds to the needs of all pupils, including those from practising Catholic families, those for whom school is their first and main experience of Church, and those of other faith backgrounds.

Through prayer and liturgy, pupils learn to recognise God's presence in their lives, respond in love and service, and grow in understanding of the Church's liturgical year.

Principles

All prayer and liturgy at St Vincent's will:

- Be Christ-centred, scripturally rooted, and faithful to the Catholic tradition.
- Provide high-quality, age-appropriate liturgical experiences.
- Form pupils so that they can prepare, lead, and evaluate prayer and liturgy confidently.
- Reflect the rhythm of the Church's liturgical calendar, marking feast days, Holy Days of Obligation, and significant moments in the life of the Church.
- Offer a variety of prayer experiences: silent, sung, reflective, meditative, spontaneous, and traditional.
- Foster awe, wonder, reverence, and joy.

Aims

At St Vincent's, prayer and liturgy will:

- Help children to encounter Christ and deepen their relationship with God.
- Inspire children to live out Gospel values of love, service, justice, and compassion in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul.
- Nurture a prayerful school community where staff and pupils learn and pray together.
- Enrich the religious, spiritual, and moral experience of all members of our school family.
- Support pupils to lead prayer with increasing independence, especially through the GIFT Team (Growing in Faith Together pupil chaplains).
- Provide time for stillness, reflection, and contemplation of the mystery of God.

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Weekly Pattern

- **Monday** – Class-based Prayer and Liturgy led by teachers and/or pupils.
- **Tuesday** – Class-based Prayer and Liturgy led by teachers and/or pupils.
- **Wednesday** – KS1 and KS2 assemblies with prayer and liturgy focus.
- **Thursday** – Class mass in Church (KS2) or class-based or KS1 Prayer and Liturgy led by pupils.
- **Friday** – Whole-school Celebration of the Word, led by year groups on a rota or class-based Celebration of the Word.

Special Celebrations

- **Holy Days of Obligation:** Celebrated with Mass for KS2 in church and a Celebration of the Word for KS1 in the hall or Church.
- **Liturgical seasons and feast days:** Marked with class liturgies, assemblies, or whole-school prayer.
- **Parish and diocesan events:** Pupils and staff will participate actively in partnership with the wider Church.

Planning and Leading

- Prayer and Liturgy will follow the structure: **Gather – Listen (Word) – Respond (Prayer & Action) – Mission (Go Forth)**.
- Pupils will be given progressive opportunities to prepare and lead liturgy, supported by staff.
- The GIFT Team will play a central role in modelling and supporting pupil leadership of prayer across the school.
- Teachers will plan prayer and liturgy to ensure progression and variety, recording evidence on Seesaw.

Classroom Prayer

- Each classroom will have a dedicated prayer focus/altar, reflecting the liturgical season.
- Daily prayer includes: morning offering, grace before meals, afternoon prayer, and end-of-day prayer.
- Children will contribute to writing prayers, creating displays, and selecting music or symbols.
- In KS2, pupils will increasingly take responsibility for preparing and leading prayer.

Progression of Prayer Knowledge

At St Vincent's, children will learn the following prayers by heart as they move through school.

EYFS

- Sign of the Cross
- Morning Prayer
- Grace before meals
- Grace after meals
- End of the day prayer.
- Hail Mary (introduced)

Year 1

- All EYFS prayers plus:
- Hail Mary (secure)

Year 2

- All previous prayers plus:
- Our Father
- Glory Be
- Responses to Mass (e.g. The Lord be with you / And with your spirit)
- Prayer to the Guardian Angel
- Simple spontaneous prayers

Year 3

- All previous prayers plus:
- The KS2 Morning Offering
- The KS2 Grace After Meals (sung)
- The Act of Contrition
- The prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Year 4

- All previous prayers plus:
- The Eternal Rest
- The Apostles Creed
- Come Holy Spirit

Year 5

- All previous prayers plus:
- The Rosary
- Act of Love

Year 6

- All previous prayers plus:
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- The Magnificat
- Stations of the Cross prayers

By the end of KS2, children will have a rich repertoire of prayers from the Catholic tradition, alongside confidence in **leading spontaneous prayer and planning liturgies**.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The RE Lead will monitor prayer and liturgy through planning scrutiny, observations, and pupil voice.
- Each class will post prayer and liturgy on Seesaw to evidence children's participation and leadership.
- Feedback from staff, pupils, governors, and parents will inform evaluation and development.

Role of the Coordinator

The Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator will:

- Ensure the school is fully aligned with the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To Love You More Dearly*.
- Support staff and pupils in planning and leading high-quality prayer.
- Provide CPD and training opportunities for staff.
- Liaise with parish clergy, the diocese, and external providers.
- Monitor and evaluate provision, reporting to SLT and governors.

Legal Requirements

- Daily prayer and liturgy will be provided for all pupils.
- It may take place in class groups, key stages, or whole-school gatherings.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw children, but as a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy underpin daily life and cannot be confined to timetabled slots.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in September 2026.