

St Vincent's RC Primary School

'Hand in hand with Jesus'



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

2026–2027

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.*

1. 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 Prayer and Liturgy Directory, To Love You More Dearly, 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 an expression of who we are as a Catholic community and help pupils and adults to grow in faith, holiness, love and service.

2. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in School Life

Prayer and liturgy at St Vincent's:

- gives glory, honour, praise and thanks to God;
- places Christ and Scripture at the centre of the prayer life of the school;
- forms pupils spiritually, morally and culturally;
- is central to our Catholic identity and the daily rhythm of school life;
- responds sensitively to pupils from practising Catholic families, those for whom school is their principal experience of Church, and those of other faiths or none;
- helps pupils recognise God's presence in their lives and respond through love, service, justice and compassion;
- deepens pupils' understanding of the Church's liturgical year and the life of the wider Church.

3. Principles

All prayer and liturgy at St Vincent's will:

- be Christ-centred, scripturally rooted and faithful to Catholic tradition;
- be appropriate to the age, stage and needs of pupils;
- provide a rich variety of prayer experiences, including traditional, spontaneous, silent, sung, reflective and meditative prayer;
- reflect the seasons and colours of the liturgical year and mark important feast days, Holy Days and significant moments in the life of the Church;
- foster awe, wonder, reverence, joy, stillness and contemplation;
- enable pupils to participate actively and to prepare, lead and evaluate prayer and liturgy with increasing independence;
- lead to mission, helping pupils understand that prayer calls us to live out the Gospel.

4. Aims

- To help children encounter Christ and deepen their relationship with God.
- To inspire pupils to live out Gospel values of love, service, justice and compassion in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul.
- To nurture a prayerful community in which pupils and adults learn and pray together.
- To enrich the religious, spiritual and moral experience of all members of the school family.
- To develop pupils' knowledge and experience of Catholic prayer and the liturgical tradition of the Church.
- To give pupils progressive opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate prayer and liturgy.
- To develop pupil leadership, particularly through the GIFT Team (Growing in Faith Together).
- To provide regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and contemplation of the mystery of God.

5. Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Weekly pattern

- Monday – whole school Celebration of the Word, led by the Headteacher.
- Tuesday - class-based Prayer and Liturgy led by teachers and/or pupils.
- Wednesday – GIFT Team Celebration of the Word Broadcast, for KS1 and KS2
- Thursday - KS2 class Mass in church according to the agreed rota; other classes participate in class-based or key-stage Prayer and Liturgy planning for the Friday Celebration of the Word, as appropriate.
- Friday - class-based Celebration of the Word, led by class teacher and/or the pupils, depending on the year group, in accordance with the Prayer and Liturgy Progression map in the APOP.

This pattern may be adapted appropriately to reflect Holy Days, liturgical seasons, diocesan or parish events and significant events in the life of the school, Church, local community or wider world.

Special celebrations

- Holy Days and significant liturgical celebrations are marked through Mass, Celebration of the Word and other appropriate forms of prayer.
- The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and other significant feasts are reflected in the prayer life and environment of the school.
- Pupils and staff participate in parish and diocesan events where appropriate, strengthening the relationship between school, parish and the wider Church.

6. Planning, Leading and Evaluating Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy at St Vincent's follows the agreed structure:

- Gather - preparing the community and creating a prayerful focus.
- Listen - hearing and reflecting on the Word of God.
- Respond - responding to Scripture through prayer, reflection and/or symbolic action.
- Mission - being sent forth to live out what has been heard and prayed.

The school's Prayer and Liturgy plan and progression documents set out expectations appropriate to pupils' age and stage. Staff model high-quality prayer and support pupils in moving from participation towards increasing independence in planning, leading and evaluating prayer and liturgy.

The GIFT Team has a central role in modelling, leading and supporting prayer and liturgy across the school and in encouraging other pupils to take active leadership roles.

Evidence of Prayer and Liturgy may be recorded in accordance with school expectations, including through Seesaw where appropriate. Recording is intended to support evaluation and celebrate pupil participation and leadership; it is not a substitute for the quality of the prayer experience itself.

7. Classroom Prayer and Sacred Space

Each classroom has a dedicated prayer focus which reflects the liturgical season and supports pupils in recognising prayer as part of the daily rhythm of school life.

To support consistency and high-quality provision, every class is provided with a Prayer and Liturgy box. The box contains:

- three pieces of material in liturgical colours;
- three candles in liturgical colours;
- a rosary;
- a Catholic Bible;
- a set of laminated prayers appropriate to the key stage;

- a laminated Prayer and Liturgy planning script;
- a knitted statue of Our Lady;
- information on the class saint, including the saint's feast day, patronage and qualities.

These resources support staff and pupils in creating an appropriate sacred focus, recognising the liturgical seasons, using Scripture and Catholic prayer, and planning and leading Prayer and Liturgy with increasing confidence. Pupils are encouraged to contribute appropriately through prayer, music, symbols, responses and leadership.

8. Progression in Prayer Knowledge

Children build a repertoire of Catholic prayers as they move through school. Previously learned prayers continue to be revisited so that knowledge becomes secure and pupils understand when and how prayers are used within the life of the Church.

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
- Hail Mary (secure)

Year 2

- All previous prayers
- Our Father
- Glory Be
- Responses to Mass (for example, 'The Lord be with you / And with your spirit')
- Prayer to the Guardian Angel
- Simple spontaneous prayers

Year 3

- All previous prayers
- KS2 Morning Offering
- KS2 Grace After Meals (sung)
- Act of Contrition
- Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Year 4

- All previous prayers
- Eternal Rest
- Apostles' Creed
- Come Holy Spirit

Year 5

- All previous prayers
- The Rosary

- Act of Love

Year 6

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

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have a rich repertoire of prayers from the Catholic tradition alongside increasing confidence in spontaneous prayer and in planning and leading Prayer and Liturgy.

9. Leadership and Responsibilities

Headteacher and Senior Leaders

- ensure that Prayer and Liturgy remains central to the Catholic life and mission of the school;
- support the implementation of the school's Prayer and Liturgy policy, plan and progression expectations;
- ensure appropriate time, resources and professional development are provided;
- work with the Prayer and Liturgy/RE Lead to evaluate provision and its impact;
- ensure governors receive appropriate information to fulfil their strategic responsibilities.

Prayer and Liturgy/RE Lead

- ensures provision is aligned with To Love You More Dearly and diocesan expectations;
- maintains and develops the school's Prayer and Liturgy plan, progression and supporting guidance;
- supports staff and pupils in planning and leading high-quality Prayer and Liturgy;
- provides or coordinates appropriate CPD and staff formation;
- supports and develops the GIFT Team and pupil leadership;
- coordinates appropriate resources, including the class Prayer and Liturgy boxes;
- liaises with parish clergy, the Diocese and other appropriate partners;
- monitors and evaluates provision and reports findings and priorities to senior leaders and governors.

Class Teachers and Other Staff

- model prayer and reverence and support pupils in developing confidence and independence;
- follow the agreed school structure, progression and expectations;
- ensure Prayer and Liturgy is inclusive, age-appropriate, rooted in Scripture and responsive to the liturgical year;
- use the resources provided to create meaningful opportunities for encounter, reflection and mission.

Governors

- support and challenge leaders in ensuring high-quality Prayer and Liturgy;
- receive appropriate monitoring and evaluation information;
- assure themselves that provision reflects the Catholic nature and mission of the school.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Prayer and Liturgy is monitored as part of the school's ongoing Catholic self-evaluation and improvement cycle. Monitoring is designed to evaluate quality and impact rather than simply check that activities have taken place.

The agreed annual Prayer and Liturgy monitoring plan may include:

- observations of Prayer and Liturgy;
- pupil voice, including discussion with members of the GIFT Team;
- review of pupil participation, leadership and increasing independence;
- review of classroom prayer spaces and the effective use of Prayer and Liturgy resources;
- review of planning and appropriate evidence, including Seesaw where used;
- staff voice and professional dialogue;
- feedback and involvement from senior leaders, governors, parents, parish and pupils where appropriate.

The school's Prayer and Liturgy plan identifies how leaders will know that agreed expectations are secure. Monitoring findings are used to celebrate strengths, identify support or formation needs, inform next steps and demonstrate the impact of leadership on provision and pupil experience.

11. Relationship with Curriculum Religious Education

Prayer and Liturgy and curriculum Religious Education are distinct but complementary. Religious Education is a core curriculum subject with its own curriculum time, teaching, assessment and monitoring. Prayer and Liturgy forms part of the daily Catholic life of the school and is additional to the 10% curriculum allocation for Religious Education.

12. Legal Requirements

Daily prayer and liturgy is provided for all pupils and may take place in class groups, key stages or whole-school gatherings. As a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy permeates the life and ethos of St Vincent's and is not confined to isolated timetabled sessions.

Any statutory rights relating to participation or withdrawal will be managed in accordance with current legislation, diocesan guidance and the school's Catholic character.

13. Policy Review

Policy	Prayer and Liturgy
Academic year	2026–2027
Related documents	Prayer and Liturgy Plan/APOP; Prayer Progression; Religious Education Policy
Review	Annually, or earlier in response to diocesan or statutory guidance
Responsibility	Headteacher, Prayer and Liturgy/RE Lead and Governing Body