

Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

This policy will be implemented in a way which honours the vision that every FCJ school is a community of persons - students, staff, governors - bound together in mutual respect and ready to rely on each other in fulfilling their privileged task as educators in a Catholic school.

Bellerive FCJ Catholic College Mission Statement:

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith
- To respect and value other cultures and faiths
- To make the most of every given ability
- To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence
- To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society

History of Document

Issue No.	Author/ Owner	Date Written	To Governors	Date Approved	Comments/Signature
1		March 2024	25/04/2024	April 2024	Review April 2026
2					
3					
4					

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 25th April 2024 and will be reviewed in April 2026.

Bellerive FCJ Catholic College is a school in the Gaudete Trust with an FCJ Charism within the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Mission Statement of Bellerive FCJ Catholic College:

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith.
- To respect and value other cultures and faiths.
- To make the most of every given ability
- To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence.
- To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society

FCJ Schools Vision Statement

Inspired by the Gospel and true to Marie Madeleine's founding ideal, our vision is that FCJ schools are communities of personal and academic excellence. Strong in companionship, the unique giftedness of every person in these faith communities is recognised, nourished and celebrated.

Our hope and expectation is that, through God's grace working in us all, each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

Context

'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.)

'...often speak to our Lord in the centre of your heart' (Marie Madeleine)

The school was opened in 1844 by the Faithful Companions of Jesus, founded by Marie Madeleine.

The school is part of a wider community of FCJ Schools in England and Ireland within the FCJ Society who share a Vision Statement and Six Values: Companionship, Dignity, Excellence, Gentleness, Hope, Justice

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)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

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.

The understanding of Collective Worship at Bellerive FCJ Catholic College goes beyond that of a legal requirement, rather it is a core element of the life of the school through which we rejoice, comfort and hope. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God, and to enter into deeper companionship with Jesus Christ.

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 who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (School Chaplain)
- 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/School Chaplain

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 (Chaplaincy Development Plan) 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.

(d) Teaching and Support Staff

Every member of our community is responsible for contributing to the ethos of our FCJ Catholic School. Staff are expected to:

- Uphold the Catholic Ethos of the School
- Exemplify the FCJ Values and teach students about these values.
- Support students to develop their faith through prayer and service.
- Encourage attendance and appropriate behaviour in Masses, Services and Prayer times.
- Lead prayer with students in classrooms
- Celebrate the Liturgical Calendar with students.
- Seek support from chaplain and leaders if required.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

- Weekly Prayer and Liturgy Resources for Form Tutors to use daily.
- Afternoon Prayer - Daily
- Year Group Assemblies – Each year group has one assembly per week.
- Feast Day Mass – Friday closest to 8th December (Immaculate Conception)
- Lent and Advent Voluntary Masses
- Lent and Advent Services
- Year 7 Welcome Mass
- Year 11 Pre-Exam Mass
- Year 13 Leaver's Mass
- Staff Prayer every Friday
- Prayer to start each INSET.
- Briefing Prayers – One staff briefing per week led by staff.
- Year 7 and 12 Retreat Days
- Chapel Lessons led by RE staff in curriculum time.
- Training for new staff
- Rosary in May and October
- Prayers with staff and students as requested in times of need.
- Support for staff to support assembly preparation and collective worship.

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 regularly 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 School Chaplain, Leaders and Governors.