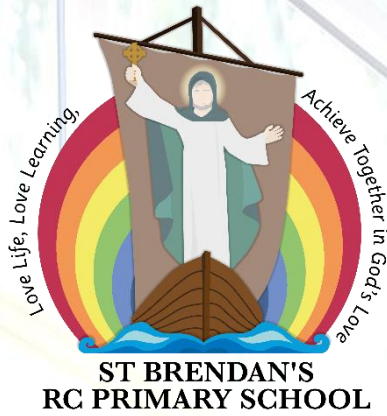




St Brendan's RCP School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

**Love life,
Love learning,
Achieve together in God's love.**

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on July 2025 and will be reviewed on July 2027

Signed by the Chair of Governors:

Signed by the Head Teacher:

Our Mission Statement



At St Brendan's, we pride ourselves on being an aspirational, loving family school where our children not only enjoy learning but also lead their own educational journeys with purpose, fidelity, and with Christ at the heart of all that we do. Our mission is to ensure that every individual within our school environment feels happy, safe, and cherished, inspiring our pupils to achieve and flourish daily.

The collaborative spirit among pupils at St Brendan's is exceptional, reflecting a strong culture of care and support. Our dedicated leaders and teachers have implemented an engaging curriculum designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners. The governing body maintains a robust oversight of our educational provisions, frequently challenging school leaders regarding pupil achievement across various subjects. Staff members take pride in their roles at St Brendan's, feeling well supported by leadership and appreciating their contributions to the school's success.

Pupils exhibit an exceptionally positive attitude towards learning, demonstrating effective collaboration during their educational experiences. They possess a profound understanding of equalities and diversity, displaying a clear commitment to becoming responsible citizens within our community.

As a Roman Catholic school, St Brendan's is deeply committed to ensuring that all pupils are not only informed but also embody the values of happiness, safety, and love. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching (CST), our curriculum teaches pupils the importance of social justice and compassion, emphasising the dignity of every individual. Children actively engage with the distinctive Catholic identity, charism, and mission of our school, valuing its unique contributions to both the local and universal Church. This active participation significantly enhances the Catholic life and mission of St Brendan's, fostering a community that follows the teachings of Jesus as articulated in the Gospels and Church teachings.



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.)



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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; 70 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy 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.

Responsibility

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.

Head teacher

The Head teacher, 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.



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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 Model prayer and liturgy policy 71 9.4
- 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 Head teacher 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

Children at St Brendan's actively engage in a rich variety of collective worship experiences. Prayer and Liturgy is central to the rhythm of the school day and is highly valued by pupils, staff and the wider school community. The experiences of prayer and liturgy at St Brendan's deeply engage all of our children, fostering their full, active, and conscious participation. Timetabled sessions take place in our beautiful chaplaincy provision. Key stage and whole school assemblies create a rich spiritual environment.

Children at St Brendan's show reverence and understanding when participating in acts of worship and are able to articulate how these experiences support their faith development. Our children reflect this engagement through the quality of sacred silence, their attentiveness and thoughtful responses during liturgical moments, and their enthusiastic participation in communal singing. Furthermore, opportunities for pupil-planned and led initiatives empower our children to take ownership of their spiritual experiences, thereby enhancing their connection to both the school community and their personal faith journeys.



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Prayer and Liturgy - St Brendan's RC Primary School			
	Date	Prayer Leaders	
	Focal Point		
	Liturgical Season	Colour	
			Think about...
 We gather	We come together as part of God's family. Make everyone welcome! God speaks to us and we listen – light a candle and say "Jesus promised when two or three gather in his name, he is with them. We light our candle as a symbol that Jesus is with us now."		- Liturgical Season - colours (Green, purple, white/pink, red) - Prayer focus table - Bible - Cross - Symbols/ objects/ pictures/ photos - Candle - Music - Sign of the cross
 We listen	Give context to the Scripture (who, when, where and something to listen for) In the reading you are about to hear "Alicia Belski, a reading from the Holy Gospel according to... If not from the Gospel say "A reading from..."		- Scripture reference - Inviting everyone to cross their forehead, mouth and heart
 We respond	We respond to the Word of God. What did you hear? Give time of silence... "In the reading what did you hear?" Ask a wonder question "I wonder..."		- Prayer - Singing - Reflection - Signed Silence - Dance - Gestured action - CAFOOD story - Drama - Picture / photo - Create
 Going Forth	Sending everyone out to be with Jesus or to be like him. Send them on a mission. What I wonder		- Gospel phrase - Song - Learn about CAFOOD - Tell others about CAFOOD - Action - Campaign - Prayer card - Artfact - Flowers - Big question

Annual Plan of Provision (APoP)

'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (Matthew 18:20).

This familiar saying of Jesus provides the starting point for understanding prayer and liturgy at St Brendan's. Whenever we come together to pray or to celebrate the Sacraments or to hear the scriptures, Christ is present and active. In the Mass, Christ is present in:

- The whole gathered community as it prays, sings, and responds
- The proclamation of the scriptures
- The priest who ministers • especially and substantially, in the Eucharistic species – the Body and Blood of Christ, wholly and entirely present under the appearance of bread and wine.

Our APoP is integral to the school calendar it ensures a rhythm of prayer and liturgy provision, mirroring the liturgical cycle is prioritised.



[Link to APoP](#)



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Daily Patterns of Prayer

To begin and end each school day in prayer helps us to put the whole day into perspective, fostering a sense of community and reflection among our children, beginning and concluding with the sign of the cross and including a moment of silence, allowing our children to centre their thoughts. Leaders take into account the current liturgical season, which influences the tone and content of the prayer. The first model involves a single prayer appropriate for the time of day, such as the Morning Offering. The second presents a structured pattern, incorporating scripture or a psalm verse, prayers for others, and a concluding prayer. The third model introduces more spontaneous elements, inviting improvised prayers and intercessions from the children. Through these varied approaches, children are introduced to essential prayers, cultivating their spiritual awareness and understanding of communal worship.

Prayer Progression at St Brendan's RC Primary School

Age Phase	5-7 (KS1)	7-9 (Lower KS2)	9-11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	The Sign of the Cross Rec Prayer of St Brendan Y2 Our School Prayer Rec Our School Mission Statement Y1 Diocesan Prayer Rec Morning Prayer Y1 Grace before Meals Y2 Grace after Meals (sing) Rec Glory be Y2 Prayer at the end of the day (sing) Rec The Lord's Prayer Y1 Hail Mary Y2	+ the prayers listed in KS1 Grace after Meals (say) Y3 Prayer at the end of the day(say) Y3 An Act of Contrition Y3 Guardian Angel Y4 Angel of God Y3 Come, Holy Spirit Y4 Prayer of St Richard Chichester Y4 The Nicene Creed Y3 Laudate Si Y4	+ the prayers listed in KS1 and lower KS2 Morning Offering Y5 The Rosary Y6 The Magnificat Y6 Act of Faith Y5 Act of Hope Y5 Act of Love Y5 Eternal Rest Y6 Confiteor Y5

Bold print – St Brendan's RC Primary School personalised Prayers



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Weekly and termly patterns of prayer:

- Whole school Celebrations of the Word, Led by GIFT Team and Head Teacher - Monday morning
 - Class groups, pupil Led Prayer and Liturgy – Tuesday
 - Weekly parish Mass attendance , timetables basis – Tuesday
 - Class groups, pupil Led Prayer and Liturgy – Wednesday
- Ten Ten, Key Stage Assemblies Led by timetabled staff and children – Thursday
 - Liturgy of the Mass – on a timetabled basis - Thursday
- Singing Praise offering adaptive and progressive opportunities to engage with liturgical season, Hymn Practise – Friday
- Special events – such as holy week stations of the cross, / Passion Trail, patronal feast – as per Liturgical Calendar
- Opportunities to engage in ministry via singing in the community and LA events – as per Liturgical Calendar

Prayer also opens all meetings, including staff meeting/briefings



Formation for Ministry

Our children engage and participate in the prayer and liturgy offered at St Brendan's on a range of levels, including our GIFT Team acting in acolyte roles, bringing forward the crucifix, candle and book of the scriptures in communal acts of worship, handing out our CST certificates and stickers we also put forward our children who are working towards achievement of the CYMFed Faith in Action awards.

Pin - Discovery

Credits

Bronze - Service

Silver - Leadership

Gold - Innovation

Pin Level is for young people of Year 6 age (10/11). It is designed to allow young people to discover how faith shapes lives, thus acting as a stepping stone to the higher award levels. The requirements of Pin Level should fit alongside existing structures within your parish or school and should be undertaken as a class or group.

Having taken early steps in establishing a personal relationship with God, participants begin to see that this relationship has an outward and visible effect upon them and those around them. As they seek to know God better, they become aware that others, of all ages, are trying to do the same. This draws us together in community. Seeking to serve the community helps us discover even more about ourselves, each other and God.



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Resourcing Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy lies 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 are 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.

Engagement with the Parish and with families

At St Brendan's we are constantly working to further develop our partnership with families and the parish to support the developing prayer life and liturgical formation of our children. We endeavour to do all we can to ensure a continuity of practice between school prayer and liturgy and that of the parish – for example, connecting with the parish in the formation of pupils for liturgical ministry. Weekly newsletters and regular social media posts offer a formal and planned mechanism to open dialogue with parents about the prayer and liturgy that happens in the school in order that families feel included in the school's prayer and liturgy. We commit to working with those of other faiths and none to inform the prayer and liturgy offered in order that parents and families feel that their own confessional distinctiveness is respected. We work closely with the parish community to facilitate the participation of pupils in the wider life of the Church, for example through singing ministry, readers and altar servers.



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Training and Formation

All new staff are supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy at St Brendan's.

Any individual training needs are identified and addressed through training and formation.

There is also 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. 72 9.5 Common prayers 8. Review The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors

Our Faith in Action



Document History

Date	Amendments
September 2012	Original documents
November 2014	No changes necessary apart from the introduction of Statements to live by
October 2019	Changes reflect updated Parish details and new resources used
September 2022	Introduction of updated Mission Statement and annual class plan of prayers
June 2025	Rewrite according to new Prayer and Liturgy Directory statutory documentation.



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