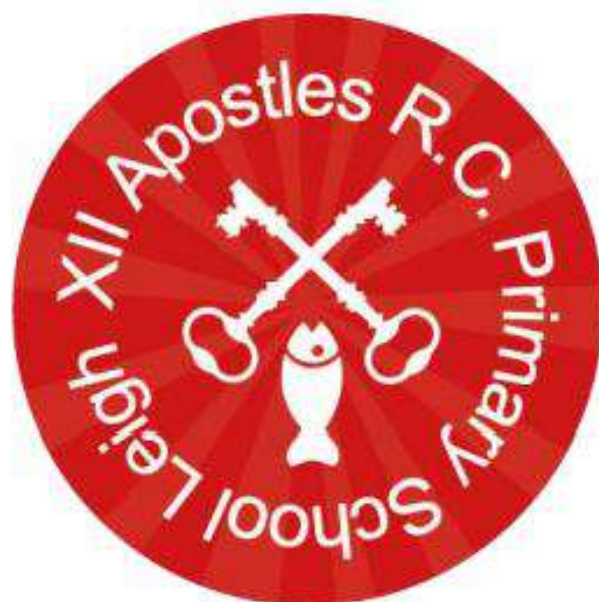


XII Apostles RCPS

Prayer and liturgy policy



Date effective from	February 2026
Date of next review	February 2028
Review period	2 Year
Person responsible	Mrs C Featherstone
Date shared by Governing Body	05/02/26

Mission Statement

Through Loving and Learning we will follow Jesus

Aims

1. To place Christ at the centre of everything we do
 2. To recognise that each child is unique and to ensure that each child is educated to fulfil their human potential
 3. To develop an understanding of Community; being able to recognise, respect and celebrate the diversity of all within it.
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1. To place Christ at the centre of everything we do ...
 - a) Create a community where everyone will matter and everyone will be treated with love
 - b) Integrate the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life
 - c) Support the children's journey of faith
 - d) Ensure the Mission Statement is the foundation of all policies
 2. To recognise that each child is unique and to ensure that each child is educated to fulfil their human potential ...
 - a) Ensure that the vision of education will be based on the Christian understanding that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore has dignity
 - b) Educate and develop the whole child: learning from the Bible and through visiting Church ; learning through Religious Education and through Collective Worship; providing opportunities for prayer, liturgy, celebration of the word and assemblies
 - c) Support parents in their responsibility for the academic, physical, spiritual, moral and religious education of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church
 - d) Recognising the talents and gifts of all
 - e) Find out about the special role God has for everyone and support this journey
 3. To develop an understanding of Community; being able to recognise, respect and celebrate the diversity of all within it ...
 - a) Work in partnership with parents, parish and the wider community
 - b) Create a community rooted in faith and inspired by Christian values where everyone is and feels valued
 - c) Promote an understanding and respect for all; being a service to society enabling children to understand their communal obligations, personal aspirations and their role as citizens in society and the world.
 - d) Promote community cohesion at school, local, national and global levels

- e) Respect the equal human rights of all our pupils and educate them about equality

1. 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.)

2. 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 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.

3. 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.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Throughout the school, children are given many opportunities to participate in prayer and liturgy.

Despite the closure of our church in 2019, every effort is made to ensure that the children attend mass as frequently as possible. Throughout the year, children travel to St Joseph's church in Leigh, via coach, to attend mass. This includes our annual whole school mass in which each child celebrates the feast of St Peter and Paul in church. Every child is also given the opportunity to attend masses in school throughout the year. Our parish priest, Father Kieran, leads a welcome mass at the beginning of the year. This is followed by school masses throughout the year including All Saints, Advent, Lent and a leavers mass for our Year Six children as they leave our school.

Children in Year Four, are given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are supported in their journey throughout the year as staff lead the sacramental preparation sessions. Children in Year Five and Six are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation again during the season of Advent.

Each week, children participate in Celebration of the Word twice a week; once with their classes and once as a whole school. For class based Celebration of the Word, progression is evident across the school. In EYFS and KS1, children are encouraged to participate in setting up the prayer space and joining in with symbolic actions such as making the sign of the cross. As the children move through school, they progress at their own level. Children in KS2 become more involved in participating with formal prayers, joining in mass responses and participating in the planning of the Celebration of the Word. Along with the class teacher, children in KS2 plan Celebration of the Word once per half term. Within this process, children look at the yearly cycle of the church and the liturgical calendar. Through resources such as CAFOD, Wednesday Word, The Ordo and The God who Speaks, children are able to select appropriate scripture and ways to gather, respond and go forth, supported by the class teacher.

Children also engage in whole school prayer twice a week during assembly. Children say daily prayers with their class and also spend time learning formal prayers including the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Act of Contrition. These formal prayers are introduced gradually as the children move up the school to ensure that they are at an age appropriate level. Children are also encouraged to share their own prayer intentions at any time and opportunities for spontaneous prayer are encouraged for this.

At Twelve Apostles, we create a variety of ways that children can participate in prayer both in and out of school. Parents are invited to Stay and Pray sessions throughout the year; a time in which parents and children can engage in prayer together. Travelling cribs are also sent home throughout Advent, again providing an opportunity for children to reflect and to pray at home with their families. The Wednesday Word is also shared with families each week. The school's Catholic Life Group also deliver whole school prayer assemblies termly during the season of Advent, the season of Lent and during the month of May to spend time praying to Mary our Mother.

5. 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 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Policy Ratified (date) : February 2026

Review (date): January 2028