St Antony's
Roman Catholic School
Respect † Love † Integrity † Service † Resilience

St Antony's Roman Catholic School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Date of review: March 2026

Next review: March 2027

Our Mission Statement

"Let the light and splendour of Christ shine from within us all."

Guided by this mission, we strive to grow together as a faithful Catholic community rooted in prayer, worship, and service. Through our daily lives, we seek to reflect Christ's love, compassion, and truth in all that we do.

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

At St Antony's prayer and liturgy are central to the life and mission of the school. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, our community seeks to nurture a spiritual and reflective environment where staff, pupils and families grow spiritually, socially and morally.

Prayer and liturgy provide all members with the opportunity to reflect, grow in faith, character and encounter Christ helping us to live out our faith of love, service, justice and responsibility in daily life.

2. Legal and Canonical requirements

All Catholic Schools are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that is in accordance with practices and liturgical norms of the Church (Section 70, 1988 Education Act).

Prayer and Liturgy is distinct from the RE curriculum, although it does complement and enrich pupils learning. Our provision allows pupils to experience a wide range of ways to worship.

It must be noted that parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. This must be respected and recognised.

3. Roles and Responsibility

The Governing Body:

- Update and review the prayer and liturgy policy to ensure it is in line with the 'Love you more dearly' prayer and liturgy directory.
- Support the Catholic mission of the school.

The Headteacher:

- Update and review the prayer and liturgy policy to ensure it is in line with the 'Love you more dearly' prayer and liturgy directory.
- Ensure appropriate resources are provided for prayer and liturgy in school.
- Work in partnership with the Collective worship lead.
- Promote an inclusive Catholic ethos**.**

The Collective Worship lead:

- Update and support the review of the prayer and liturgy policy to ensure it is in line with the 'Love you more dearly' prayer and liturgy directory.
- Ensure there is daily planned collective worship opportunities as outlined in the 'love you more dearly' prayer and liturgy directory.
- Provide pupils with opportunities to take an active role in planning, leading and delivering prayer.
- Collaborate with local priests and parishes.
- Monitor and evaluate prayer and liturgy across the school ensuring it is taking place and feedback to the Headteacher to support the whole school vision.

Heads of Year:

- Support tutors to deliver meaningful collective worship sessions.
- Coordinate year group assemblies ensuring there is opportunity for collective worship.
- Encourage participation of pupils in assemblies to lead in prayer.
- Support the monitoring of collective worship across tutor groups.

Staff:

- Deliver high-quality daily prayer in the Belong and Grow sessions and at the end of the day.
- Model the Gospel values to pupils.
- Encourage pupils to plan, deliver and lead in collective worship.

Pupils:

- Participate respectfully in daily prayer and liturgy.
- Take leadership roles in collective worship where appropriate.
- Reflect on and live out the Gospel values in their behaviour and relationships.

4. Our Whole-School Model of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy at St Antony's are embedded in daily life and follow a clear structure that enables pupils to pray regularly, reflect daily and live out their faith.

A. Daily prayer and Liturgy

These experiences reach all pupils and staff and form the foundation of our daily spiritual life:

- Every morning, apart from when pupils are in assembly, form time begins with a prayer and reflection. Pupils are encouraged to pause, be still and prepare for the day ahead in a prayerful atmosphere.
- Daily morning prayers are carefully planned in line with the liturgical calendar allowing pupils to focus on their journey through the Church year together. E.g. During lent the pupils reflect on the stations of the cross in their morning Belong and Grow sessions.
- Prayer is said during period 5 at the end of the school day which again are linked to the liturgical calendar.

B. Weekly prayer and Liturgy

Alongside daily prayer, pupils and staff participate in several weekly opportunities for deeper spiritual reflection.

- Every week in Belong and Grow time, we have a deeper spiritual reflective session. During this time pupils explore themes guided by the Gospel of the week, liturgical calendar, Holy days of obligation and the lives of the saints. These sessions encourage pupils to reflect on the meaning of the Gospel and consider how it applies to their lives today.
- Each year group participates in weekly assemblies which encompass themes that are connected to the liturgical calendar. Every assembly begins with pupils collectively coming together to say the St Antony's school prayer. Pupils are encouraged to take an active role in assembly through helping to proclaim the Gospel.
- Every Wednesday lunchtime, pupils and staff are invited to spend time in quiet reflection and prayer in the Chapel. This provides a peaceful space for personal and collective worship.

C. Whole School liturgical celebrations

Throughout the year, pupils and staff have opportunities to take part in liturgies and spiritual experiences including:

- Stations of the cross with Sister Linda in the Chapel/Garden of Reflection.
- The Rosary
- Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- Advent and lent liturgies
- Sacrament of reconciliation
- Remembrance liturgies

- Year 7 welcome Mass and retreat
- Year 11 leavers service
- Whole-school Mass at St Hugh of Lincoln x3 times per year
- Half termly morning Mass at St Antony's School
- Growing in Faith Together lunchtime club
- Choir

5. Monitoring and Review

The impact of collective worship is review regularly through:

- Senior Leadership and the Collective Worship Lead quality assurance visits
- Governor scrutiny of provision and impact – via school visits and via meetings of the FGB
- Pupil and staff voice
- Annual policy review
- Ongoing refinement of practice

6. Training and formation

- New staff during induction are made aware of the responsibility to lead prayer and worship.
- Best practice is modelled to staff during appropriate times e.g. Form tutor meetings.
- CPD offered for all staff – and this is supported by Diocesan representatives where necessary

7. Inclusivity and Community Engagement

St Antony's ensures that prayer and liturgy:

- Welcome pupils of all backgrounds
- Respect diversity
- Encourage reflection for all
- Invite families to celebrations and services
- Maintain strong parish collaboration
- Support for SEND and disadvantaged pupils

8. Alignment with Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Prayer and liturgy explicitly support the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and help pupils' live faith in action:

- Dignity of the Human Person – prayer affirms the worth of every individual and fosters respect and compassion
- Solidarity – communal worship strengthens belonging and shared responsibility
- The Common Good – liturgy encourages service, justice and community wellbeing
- Preferential Option for the Poor – prayer underpins charity work and outreach
- Stewardship of Creation – reflected through prayer themes and ECO group initiatives
- Subsidiarity – pupil leadership in prayer empowers responsibility and contribution

These principles are intentionally referenced across assemblies, curriculum links and service projects.

Conclusion

Prayer and liturgy at St Antony's are the heartbeat of school life. Through high-quality worship, inclusive practice and strong formation, we nurture faith, character and community so that every member of our school can encounter Christ and allow His light to shine within them.