



St Bede's

Catholic School
& Sixth Form College

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

a community of faith hope and love



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust

Aims for prayer and liturgy

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College aims to provide opportunities for students and staff to come together in community to worship God. Prayer and liturgy will reflect the traditions of our Church, taking into account the spiritual and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- those from other Christian traditions, faith communities or none.

We endeavour to do this by:

- helping to develop the faith of each individual within our community;
- ensuring that our school is a caring community;
- giving students an insight into and understanding of Gospel values;
- developing a sense of mission;
- encouraging those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- helping those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- including students from other Christian traditions, or none or from other faith backgrounds;
- providing an educational experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Therefore, three times each day, staff and students will pray together:

- at the start of each day for morning prayer in tutor groups and/or year group liturgical prayer using the Diocesan format of gather, listen, respond and mission;
- in the middle of each day during Period 4 in tutor groups – the Angelus Prayer;
- at the end of each day in subject lessons – the Examen.

Our prayers will reflect our School Mission, Aims & Values which are underpinned by the Gospel and Church.



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College is to create an atmosphere of Catholic values, attitudes, practice and knowledge such that all children will have the opportunity for their faith to be nurtured. Thus they will be able to widen and deepen themselves as people in preparation for this life and for the life to come.

St Bede's Aims and Values

St Bede's aims to be a community inspired by **CHRIST** to serve others.

Common Good

To promote a spirit of **charity**, social **justice**, global **stewardship** and concern for others leading to a contribution to the common good.

Hope

To be an educational community built on foundations of **faith**, **hope** and **love**, which reflects Christ's message of **compassion**, **solidarity** and **forgiveness**.

Respect

To build a community of mutual **respect** working towards a common understanding of high standards of behaviour, good **manners** and individual accountability, as well as encouraging students to make **responsible** and positive **choices**.

Inspiration

To be a caring, supportive and inclusive community inspired by **Christ**, recognised by our love of God and of our **neighbour** whilst nurturing qualities of **resilience**, **determination**, **ambition**, **courage** and commitment, in order to live fulfilling and purposeful lives.

Service

To follow Christ's example of **servng** others, in a climate of **kindness**, **humility**, **friendship** and **cooperation**.

Talents

To encourage all members of the community to foster a love of life-long learning so that they can use their **talents** to the full, pursuing **excellence** in all things and in doing so, bring Christ to each other.

Christ
Talents
Accountability
Courage
Kindness
Respect
Forgiveness

Inclusive
Faith
Ambition
Excellence
Friendship
Choices
Inspire



Compassion
Humility
Responsibility
Service
Solidarity
Love
Resilience

Justice
Charity
Neighbour
Hope
Stewardship
Cooperation
Manners

Prayer and liturgy at St Bede's will include:

- weekly liturgical prayer alternating with student briefing assembly which will be coordinated by the Senior Leader and Year Leader;
- daily prayer and reflection in tutor groups and subject classrooms, coordinated by the Chaplain;
- year group Masses;
- prayer and liturgy focused on the liturgical calendar/school year/global calendar;
- opportunity for weekly prayer/liturgy/Mass for staff and students in the school chapel, led by clergy, Chaplain and RE department.

Prayer and liturgy aims to enable all members of the community to:

- reflect upon the mystery that is God;
- provide opportunities for students and staff pray together;
- heighten students' awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life;
- grow in liturgical understanding with specific reference to the Catholic tradition;
- respond to life's challenges, enjoy celebrations and comfort/console at times of difficulty;
- celebrate the richness and diversity of creation (environmental stewardship);
- give opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer;
- express our faith as a Christian community;
- support and enhance the personal development of our students and staff.

Liturgical prayer will follow the diocesan format of:

- 1. Gather:**
How we come together as part of God's family, the setting, the environment.
- 2. Word:**
How the Word of God is proclaimed. God speaks to us and we open our ears to listen.
- 3. Respond:**
The response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action.
- 4. Mission:**
Provides the students with something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take this into their daily lives and share the Good News.

Role of the Leader of Catholic Life and Mission:

- provide and offer training and support for Chaplain and teaching staff;
- point of contact for all staff;
- identify and meet the training needs of those involved in chaplaincy in our schools;
- oversee the organisation of Catholic Life and Mission within the school;
- assistance with sacred spaces (school chapel);
- opportunities to meet and discuss ideas and problem-solve together;
- assistance with the planning and preparation of key liturgical celebrations including major feasts and seasons across sectors;
- ensure the website reflects the Catholic Life and Mission of the school community;
- lead the monitoring of prayer and liturgy and ensure this is regularly evaluated.

Role of the Chaplain (further details in appendix 1):

- make prayer engaging and meaningful for staff and students;
- increase involvement of our young people in the prayer life of their school;
- develop whole school spirituality events including retreats and liturgies;
- develop links with the local parish community;
- lead on any/and all events associated with the Catholic Life and Mission of the school that will enhance the personal development of our students;
- support the monitoring of prayer and liturgy and be part of the self-evaluation process.

Role of the Year Leader:

- support the delivery of meaningful prayer and reflection through student briefings;
- model the Catholic Life and Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in prayer and liturgy;
- encourage involvement in prayer and liturgy;
- support the monitoring of prayer and liturgy and be part of the self-evaluation process.

Role of the Form Tutor:

- support the delivery of meaningful daily prayer and reflection;
- model the Catholic Life and Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in prayer and liturgy;
- encourage involvement in prayer and liturgy.

Appendix 1

Role of the Chaplain:

- support the leader of CL&M in formulating a policy for prayer and liturgy;
- support the leader of CL&M in the development plan for prayer and liturgy;
- ensure that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of students;
- ensure that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children';
- organise themes for prayer and liturgy;
- develop staff confidence and expertise by modelling different prayer styles;
- support with transition of students in Year 7 and Sixth Form.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating:

- maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation that will provide evidence for inspection and governor reports;
- support in the observation of prayer and liturgy and provide feedback;
- inform the leader of CL&M of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy;
- gather and collate feedback from staff and students.

Communication:

- communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy;
- encourage positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy;
- support the leader of CL&M with induction for newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy;
- communicate with parents, governors, and the parish community;
- liaise with the Diocesan Department for Education.

Professional development/ongoing formation:

- support the leader of CL&M with the leading and organisation of in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy;
- attend appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training (where necessary);
- keep up to date by personal reading and professional development.

Resources:

- evaluate existing resources and provide resources to support staff and students with prayer and liturgy;
- develop the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, new and relevant books, posters etc;
- budget efficiently
- ensure that symbols and icons of the Catholic faith are displayed throughout the school.