

St Benedict's Catholic College



Prayer and Liturgy policy

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| Date reviewed | July 2025 |
| Approved by governors | July 2025 |
| Date of next review | Summer 2028 |

*We are an inclusive community with Christ at the Centre
We nurture spiritual, emotional and academic growth
We develop our gifts and talents through prayer, work and respect
It's what we do and believe*

Ora Et Labora

St Benedict's Catholic College

Prayer and Liturgy policy



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.)

Provision for prayer and liturgy at St Benedict's Catholic College will fulfil students' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which students in our college will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of a 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 Catholic life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the college and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (published by the Bishops' Conference)
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the college (*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) Principal

The Principal, as the spiritual leader of the college as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the college 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 college 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 college.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

The Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator at St Benedict's Catholic College is the lay chaplain. The lay chaplain is line managed by the Principal

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the college 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 academic 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 students, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- students 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

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- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and students
- 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 Principal and Governing Body to support whole-college development and the Catholic life of the college
- 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

Provision of prayer and liturgy in St Benedict's Catholic College follows the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. This includes the major seasons and holy days of the liturgical year. The college produces its own liturgical calendar which brings the Church's liturgical calendar into the context of college life. It is from this college liturgical calendar that much of the provision of prayer and liturgy in the college flows.

Daily Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Morning Form Time always begins with a moment of communal prayer. This includes, but is not limited to, the prayer reflection slides (shared by the lay chaplain every week). Form tutors are responsible for facilitating this but are also encouraged to give students roles of leadership in leading prayer. For example, through the role of form Chaplaincy Representatives.

Staff Briefing is held on every weekday apart from Wednesday and begins with a brief prayer led by the Lay Chaplain.

All meetings of the Governing Body begin with a prayer.

Morning prayer is held every Wednesday at 8:15am in the college chapel. This time of prayer may consist of Mass, the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours.

All year 8 forms take part in a class Mass during the Summer term.

Prayer and Liturgy Provision through the Academic and Liturgical Year

The entire college community attends the celebration of Mass on the following occasions:

- The start of a new academic year (taking place in September)
- Advent (taking place at the start of December)
- Easter (taking place at the start of the Summer Term)
- The feast of St Benedict (taking place on or close to 11th July)

The entire college community attends a formal Liturgy on the following occasions:

- Ash Wednesday

Other Holy Days of Obligation (particularly the Epiphany, Ascension Day and All Saints' Day) are observed in college when they fall in term time. If possible and appropriate, this includes the celebration of Mass in college. If Mass is not possible for any reason, a Celebration of the Word will be co-ordinated and students and families will be encouraged to attend Mass in their



local parish. If Holy Days of Obligation fall out of term time, they are signposted in some way through the Colleges' liturgical calendar and the regular prayer and liturgy provision.

A family Mass for all students and families in the college community takes place on a weekday evening in October each year. The date is determined between local clergy, the lay Chaplain and the Headteacher. A year 11 celebration Mass occurs on a weekday evening in late April before the start of the GCSE exams. All members of staff, year 11 students and their families are invited to celebrate the Mass together.

Provision of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Advent and Lent, every member of the College community is given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in College. The Prayer and Liturgy Co-Ordinator will arrange for an assembly on the theme of Reconciliation for each year group at the start of the liturgical season. Students will then have the opportunity throughout the Lenten season to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a priest in the College chapel. The dates and times are subject to clergy availability. As part of the College's Lenten observances, students in Year 7 and Year 10 will participate in a guided reflection on the Stations of the Cross. These prayerful devotions will be led by the Lay Chaplain and will take place in the College chapel.

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the College'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 College is reflected in religious artefacts, the rule of St Benedict 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 college.

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 College. 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: students, parents, staff 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

Review date: Summer 2028