



The Salesian Academy of  
**St. John  
Bosco**



Proud to be part of  
**Pope Francis**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

# Prayer and Liturgy Policy

**'We learn not for school, but for life'**

**Respect   Understanding   Affection**  
**Happiness & Humour**

|                            |              |                 |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>Approved by:</b>        | LGB          |                 |
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## Version Control

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## Policy context and rationale

Stemming from our mission statement of every pupil at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco 'learning not for school but for life' we seek to educate the whole person; spiritually, morally, emotionally, psychologically and physically towards Christian maturity. Shared gospel values permeate the way we educate the young people entrusted to our care, in the Catholic Christian tradition, ensuring that each one is valued and cared for and achieves the best of which they are capable.

Prayer and liturgy are intrinsic and essential elements in this endeavour and are much more than the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco is Christ- centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic and Salesian tradition, reflecting Gospel values.

Prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco reflects a partnership of home, parish and school, which together educate and pass on the Faith to our children. We aim to assist parents in their God-given role as educators by providing a full Catholic secondary education. Prayer and liturgy are central to this.

## Definition of prayer and liturgy

Prayer has been described in many ways and there are many ways to pray. Prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco is defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils, staff and the wider school community to come together to pray and worship in the presence of God. We are ever mindful of the wisdom of others that teaches:

***'Prayer is about awakening to the presence of God within us.'*** (Laurence Freeman) ***'The more we find Christ within, the more we find Christ without.'*** (Bede Griffiths) ***'In His presence we are bound to love.'*** (Evelyn Underhill)

All suggesting that the more we place ourselves in God's presence, the more likely we are to have the same attitude and actions as Jesus.

Young people need and desire an experience of reflection, prayer and stillness. Opportunities for 'sacred time' in modern society are few and far between, but all the more valuable and necessary for this. A daily act of prayer and liturgy brings benefit to those who participate in it.

Prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco is a key element of pastoral care; a means of being with pupils, sharing experiences with them and offering them opportunities, challenge and an invitation to grow.

The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco endorses the belief that prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the church-going Catholic community
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other, or no, faith backgrounds

## Aims

At The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco prayer and liturgy is central to our daily life as a Catholic Christian community. Through prayer and liturgy, we aim to:

- Contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Contemplate and develop an understanding of the Liturgical Year and actively celebrate the seasons and rhythms of the Church.
- Create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, giving time for reflection, so that young people may learn to raise their hearts and minds to God in prayer.
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues and explore and share beliefs.
- Develop a sense of community and provide opportunities for all members of our community to experience a sense of belonging.
- Regularly celebrate the achievements of members of our school community, not only academically but morally and spiritually, in order to enable pupils to grow in their appreciation of, and affinity with, the values and aspirations that form the basis of our school community.
- Re-affirm, explore and put into practice the mission and values of our school.
- Attach great importance to educating young people in an awareness of the needs of others: local, national and global, and in fostering a spirit of generosity and compassion.
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.

- Create an ethos of inclusivity by providing appropriate prayer spaces and opportunities for pupils of other faiths e.g. Muslim pupils during Ramadan.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

*Form Tutors are expected to:*

- Ensure that every school day begins with an opportunity for prayer and reflection during form time.
- Make use of the resources provided by the Chaplain to support daily prayer and reflection.
- Take ownership of the resources provided, reviewing and adapting them to meet the needs of the pupils.
- Create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, giving time for reflection.
- Foster and facilitate meaningful and active engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy by the pupils.
- Give pupils responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support pupils in doing so.
- Fully support and emphasise to pupils all local, national and global fundraising opportunities, and in doing so foster a spirit of generosity and compassion.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with pupils, for example during assemblies.
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.

*Pastoral Leaders are expected to:*

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all pupils.
- Support form tutors in providing pupils with daily opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Prepare and lead regular assemblies which centre around the gospel values.
- Give pupils responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support pupils in doing so.
- Ensure that the achievements of individuals and groups are regularly celebrated in these assemblies, notices and announcements to allow explicit reflection on God-given gifts and talents.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with pupils, for example during assemblies.
- Monitor the quality of prayer and liturgy within form time alongside the year group SLT link.

Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities

*The Chaplain is expected to:*

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all pupils, staff and stakeholders.
- Support form tutors in providing pupils with daily opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Prepare and provide resources to support the wider staff body in leading prayer and liturgy.
- Prepare and lead regular assemblies which centre around the gospel values.

- Give pupils responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support pupils in doing so
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with pupils, for example during assemblies.
- Monitor the quality of prayer and liturgy within form time alongside the Behaviour and culture
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.
- Develop suitable activities to mark and celebrate the major feasts and seasons of the Church
- Ensure that school environments and displays reflect the schools' Catholic Christian identity

*The Senior Leadership Team are expected to:*

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all pupils.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with pupils, for example during assemblies.
- Create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, giving time for reflection.
- Foster and facilitate meaningful and active engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy by the pupils.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of prayer and liturgy and strategically plan for its continued development.
- Support Pastoral Leaders and other staff in the implementation of this policy providing training as required.

*Governors are expected to:*

- Monitor the implementation of this policy through link governor meetings with the Headteacher and AHT Behaviour and Culture.
- Discuss the Catholic Life and Salesian values of the school and prayer and liturgy as a standing item at LGB meetings
- Attend whole school acts of prayer and liturgy where possible.

## **Provision**

Opportunities for prayer and liturgy occur daily, weekly and annually as outlined here:

### *Daily Prayer*

- Every school day begins with prayer during form time for every form class. This takes the form of prayer linked to the theme of the week.
- Every staff briefing and meeting begins with a prayer and there are briefings/meetings across the staff body daily.

### *Weekly Prayer*

- During one morning a week, every year group will have an assembly during which there is an extended Prayer and Liturgy
- There is a weekly opportunity for staff and pupils to attend a morning reflection and Mass in the chapel.
- All weekly meetings begin with an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

### *Annual Prayer*

- Full year group liturgical services are held over the course of the academic year in line with the liturgical calendar and the Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust Prayer and Liturgy schedule.
- Every INSET day begins with an opportunity for prayer and reflection.
- Every whole school event to which external stakeholders are invited begins with an opportunity for prayer and reflection.
- Throughout the year there will be opportunities for the community to come together in worship and participate in the Mass. Pupils will be given every opportunity to participate in the preparation and roles within the mass.

### *Forms of prayer and liturgy*

- Staff and pupils are provided with, and encouraged to engage in a variety of different types of prayer and reflection, for example through Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.
- Staff and pupils are provided with, and encouraged to engage in a variety of different ways of praying and reflecting, for example by making the Sign of the Cross, being still and contemplative, listening to and reading from scripture, reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives, listening to sacred music, attending Liturgy, attending Mass and going on retreat.
- Our pupils and staff are given the opportunity of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in School by arrangement with our priest chaplain. Special arrangements are made during Advent and Lent with the assistance of visiting Clergy. The voluntary nature of individual confession is always made clear.

### **Environment**

- Every opportunity should be taken to display the distinctive Catholic and Salesian nature of the school throughout the building.
- The school chapel is designated a sacred space and is a place all can go to celebrate and participate in acts of worship. .

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy**

The Chaplain has overall responsibility for the planning of prayer and liturgy across the school, including the provision of suitable resources to support prayer and liturgy.

Weekly themes linked directly to the liturgical year and to scripture are in place, around which all acts of prayer and liturgy centre.

There is a meaningful opportunity for prayer and liturgy at the start of every school day.

This prayer and liturgy always follow the format of 'Gather, Listen, Connect, Respond'.

- **Gather** – foster an atmosphere of stillness in which prayer can take place. Pupils gather together to participate in the Sign of the Cross and choral reading of the Academy prayer.
- **Listen** - Introduce the weekly theme explicitly linked to the liturgical year and to scripture. Expand upon and explore this theme and relate the theme to an aspect of Catholic teaching.
- **Connect** – Relate the theme to pupils' daily lives in the modern world.
- **Respond** - Include opportunities for pupils to actively respond to and engage with the theme/focus.
- Finish with a closing prayer and end with the Sign of the Cross and 'Saint John Bosco ...Pray for Us'.

Pupils are invited to actively participate in and lead acts of prayer and liturgy. They are encouraged to be active participants in prayer and liturgy in a variety of ways, including asking for their own personal intentions to be remembered, for example, praying for a sick relative, or for success for the whole class as exams approach. They might be encouraged to research or read a reflection or may bring in a personal item that is important to them as a stimulus for the act of prayer and liturgy.

#### *Guidance for staff*

In order to help prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco to be as inclusive and as meaningful as possible, staff are themselves invited to consider a number of questions, amongst them:

- Do I create an atmosphere of stillness in which prayer can take place?
- Do I ever pray for my pupils before praying with them?
- Do I share myself/my story with my pupils?
- Is my attitude to leading prayer conducive to meaningful reflection?

### **Staff Training and CPD**

The main points of contact for staff seeking support in leading and facilitating prayer and liturgy are:

- The Chaplain (Fr Jacob Rusniak)
- The Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Personal Development (Mrs Jacqui Aspinall)
- The Curriculum Leader for Religious Education (Mrs Gillian Muflahi)

These staff seek to provide ongoing support to colleagues. The Chaplain for the Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust-Denis Jones also provides ongoing support to the academy.

In addition, CPD time dedicated to prayer and liturgy has been identified and prayer and liturgy also forms a central part of the induction programme for new staff. There are also opportunities for staff to attend additional training provided by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of prayer and liturgy at The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco is high priority and ongoing and takes the form of:

- Regular ongoing quality assurance of the delivery of prayer and liturgy by school and at times with support from the Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Pupil, staff and parent voice.
- Regular line management meetings
- Link governance visits

#### *Evaluation Criteria*

In evaluating the quality of prayer and liturgy across the academy, the following questions are considered:

- Is there evidence that enough is being done to make staff aware of the weekly theme?

- Is there evidence that the support materials/resources provided are helpful for staff?
- Is there evidence that the support materials/resources provided are helpful for pupils, both in terms of their accessibility and allowing them to be active participants in worship rather than just passive recipients?
- Are there examples of staff or pupils using their own resources to lead prayer in relation to the weekly theme?
- Does the response of pupils to collective worship suggest that it is something which forms part of their normal daily routine in registration?

The persons with responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation of this policy are:

- The Headteacher
- The Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Personal Development
- The Chaplain