



De La Salle School

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Status	Internal
Responsible Governors' Committee	Curriculum Committee
Responsible Person	J Wellens
Ratified Date	May 2024
Review Date	May 2027

Version Control

Version Date	Changes/Comments
May 2024	Updated version of the school's Collective Worship Policy, written in line with Archdiocese guidance and requirements.

“You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.”
St. John Baptist De La Salle

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy at De La Salle

We believe that by beginning each day with an act of prayer and liturgy, we strengthen and support what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Christian worship in our Catholic community is concerned with taking the time to encounter God and become aware of His presence in our daily lives. Within this time we give glory, praise and thanks to God for everything that He has given us.

Prayer and liturgy are rooted in the distinct Lasallian nature of our school and the pillars of Lasallian spirituality, faith, service and community. Worship in our school community is more than just a legal requirement but an integral part of our daily school life which must strive to be inclusive of all members of our community, staff and students, regardless of where they may be personally on their faith journey. Any encounter with God should also change our lives, which is why our worship should therefore meet students where they are at, yet challenge them and journey with them, through their own human experience so that our worship becomes a lived expression of the daily life, needs and concerns of our Catholic community.

Whilst we understand prayer and liturgy to be much more than a legality, we acknowledge that the law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily worship for all students (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (Schedule 20, School Standards and Framework Act 1998; Clause 2, Instrument of Government).

Our school community, pupils and staff, consists of a range of faith backgrounds and none. We maintain that our acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, but out of respect to those participating, it is not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times. The law recognises and respects parents’ legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (S71 (1A), School Standards and Framework Act 1998).

Aims

- To provide staff and students with opportunities for authentic worship in its many forms, equipping them with tools for their own personal times of prayer
- To celebrate the distinct Lasallian spirituality which underpins our community
- To give genuine opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer
- To help develop each individual’s personal relationship with God, and affirm them in the knowledge they are created in His image, and loved immeasurably by Him
- To respond to life’s challenges and celebrate life’s joys, and to help understand how God is present in every part of life
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all members of our community
- To express our shared faith as a Christian community thus reinforcing a sense of belonging and community
- To broaden horizons, and to foster a culture of an active faith which reaches out to those in need, both those in our community and those across the world

At De La Salle, we will fulfil this by:

- Ensuring each act of worship (in tutor groups or assemblies) is seen, daily and consistently, as an important part of school life
- Respecting the integrity of the individual, yet providing opportunities for creative participation, encouraging each to make an individual response to a shared experience

- Endeavouring to provide a structure, routine and physical environment (in both assemblies and classroom worship) that is appropriate to the provision of genuine and authentic moments of worship.
- Ensuring students have a sense of ownership of collective worship and take an active role in its planning and delivery

Provision

In line with the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, we follow a daily, weekly, monthly and annual pattern of prayer and liturgy. Throughout the year there may be times of special worship in line with the needs of the community, such as a bereavement in the community. A list of experiences offered can be found below:

- Daily prayer as a form class, including weekly extended worship, giving form groups the opportunity to plan and prepare their own prayer
- Weekly prayer during assembly
- Weekly prayer for staff members in briefing
- Weekly morning prayer for staff members before school
- Weekly visit to local parish for morning mass with Key Stage 3
- Monthly day of prayer held in chapel to pray for peace in our world
- Monthly mass for house groups/year groups
- Founder's Day Mass during annual mission week
- Celebration Mass for year 11
- Community Mass for new year 7 cohort and new staff commissioning
- Moments of worship at key times in the year, such as Lent, Advent, Remembrance and Holocaust memorial
- Prayers for those making the Sacrament of Confirmation

Training and Formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility that carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school.

We view form tutors as formators of the children entrusted to their care. To best support them in their role, individual training needs will be identified and addressed through formators formation.

Staff across the school will have opportunities for their own faith development throughout the year via formation, CPD and staff retreat.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We will ensure that monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy takes place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: students, parents, staff, clergy and Governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidence as appropriate.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or as changes are required.

APPENDIX 1: PRAYER AND LITURGY PLANNER