



Author/reviewer responsible:	MEX	Last amended:	August 2025
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### SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Together, learning to become all that God wants us to be.

#### Our aims:

##### **Joy in Learning**

Aim: To inspire a love of learning by fostering curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, enabling every student to discover and develop their unique talents.

##### **Joy in Service**

Aim: To nurture a spirit of kindness, generosity, and responsibility, encouraging students to serve others, care for the environment and make a positive impact in their community.

##### **Joy in Faith**

Aim: To guide students in developing strong personal values and integrity, drawing on faith and ethical principles to lead meaningful and purposeful lives.

##### **Three Rules for Life**

1. Use your talents to pursue what is good.
2. Treat other people as you would like them to treat you.
3. Be tolerant and open to respectful debate.

##### **Dissemination**

This policy is publicly available through the policy page of the school's website.

##### **Statement of requirement**

*'An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic Schools'* Pope Francis

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements

(The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will become familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the 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.

## **Aims**

*Catholic education 'is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full'* Pope Benedict XVI

This policy is part of the foundation that enables everyone to aspire to become all that God has created us to be.

- To seek to enable students and staff to experience the presence of the living God who, in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth
- To encourage spiritual development and understanding of the faith passed down to us by the church
- To put Jesus at the centre of all that we do because then we are enabled to redirect our focus of life towards an understanding of the world in which we live that is geared towards the promotion of human dignity and the common good
- Blanchelande strives to enable our students to develop a religious, spiritual and moral conscience alongside their academic studies so they are able to deepen their learning.

## **Objectives**

*'The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realise it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.'* Catechism of the Catholic Church #2560

- To create an environment where students can develop their faith and relationship with Jesus, in such a way as to help them find purpose and meaning in their life.
- Prayer is a gift from God, we seek to facilitate the growth of a personal relationship with Jesus by ensuring that prayer remains central to the life of the school.
- To provide engaging and meaningful forms of prayer and worship giving students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age.
- To ensure that all forms of collective worship support the spiritual and religious aspect of students' development, informing their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching.
- To provide regular opportunities to enable students and staff to engage in the sacramental life of the church.

### **Regular Prayer times**

- Staff Inset and meetings begin with a prayer.

### **EYFS and Infants**

- The day begins with a start of the day prayer.
- A lunch time prayer is sung every day before lunch and a prayer said after lunch.
- All of the children join in with an end of the day prayer as a last act before going home.
- Stations of the Cross are completed by each class during Lent.

### **Juniors**

- The day begins with a morning offering prayer.
- A Grace is said every day before lunch and afterwards
- All of the children join in with an end of the day, thanksgiving prayer as a last act before going home.
- Student planners contain common prayers such as Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be etc
- Rosary club is offered every lunchtime.
- Stations of the Cross are completed by each class during Lent.

### **Seniors and Sixth Form**

- Daily prayer is offered 4 times a day, as a morning offering after the register at the start of the day, Grace before lunch, Grace after lunch and a Thanksgiving prayer at the end of the day.
- Student planners contain common prayers such as Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be etc
- Rosary club is offered every lunchtime.

- Stations of the Cross are completed by each form group during a form time slot during Lent.
- Staff and students are welcome at any time to attend the prayer room to pray together in times of need.

## **Assemblies**

### **EYFS and Infants**

- Prayers are included in the Primary Assembly on Wednesday and infant assemblies on Tuesday and Thursday in the afternoon.
- One day a week the infant department join with the junior department for collective worship. This includes a prayer and hymn.
- Celebration of the Word takes place each Monday and Friday afternoon in the hall for all infants and staff.

### **Juniors**

- Celebration of the Word takes place each Tuesday and Friday morning in the hall for all students.
- Prayers and responses in form time (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) are based around the liturgical calendar.
- Prayers are included in the Primary Assembly on Wednesday.

### **Seniors and Sixth Form**

- Celebration of the Word takes place each Tuesday and Friday morning in the hall for all students and staff.
- Prayers and responses in form time (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) are based around the liturgical calendar.
- Assemblies are tailored to include spiritual/moral content with reference to Catholic Social Teaching.

### **Hymn Practice**

- Takes place every third Tuesday for seniors and every Tuesday for juniors.
- Head of Music with support of the prayer and Liturgy coordinator chooses hymns appropriate to the liturgical year and future Masses.
- There is a section of this period in which students practise the sung version of the Mass settings.

### **Celebration of Mass**

- Whole school Mass (Reception to Y13) take place at the end of the academic year.
- Senior Mass (Y7-13) and Primary Mass (Reception-Y6) take place at the beginning and end of each academic term.

- When there is a Holy Day of Obligation, Mass is also celebrated, e.g. Ascension.
- All staff and students are welcome and encouraged to attend these Masses.
- Mass takes place outside on the school field in July, weather permitting. Mass at all other times takes place in the De La Salle Hall or at St Joseph's church.
- Although staff and students from other Christian denominations and other faiths cannot receive Communion during Mass, the school welcomes and encourages them to participate as fully as possible. All are therefore encouraged to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing from the priest or Eucharistic Minister.
- All parents, Governors, Trustees and parishioners are invited to attend Mass at school.

### **Other Liturgies and services**

#### **EYFS and Infants**

- Harvest service and Christmas service at St Andrews church.

#### **Juniors**

- Harvest service and Christmas service at St Andrews church.

#### **Seniors and Sixth Form**

- A Carol Service is held during December, highlighting the importance of Advent as a time of preparation, to help members of our immediate and extended community to prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

#### **Cross Phase**

- Ash Wednesday Mass is held if it falls during term time.
- Stations of the Cross in the De La Salle Hall or around the Little Chapel is offered to all form groups during Lent.
- Stations of the Cross is held weekly during Lent at the Little Chapel during lunchtime for staff and students to attend.
- The Rosary is said at the Little Chapel during May with each form group.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent is offered for staff and students to attend.
- Remembrance service is held at the school war memorial every November.

### **Other Prayer Experiences (including retreat days)**

#### **EYFS and Infants**

- Prayer spaces in each classroom.

#### **Juniors**

- Prayer spaces in each classroom.

#### **Seniors and Sixth Form**

- Yearly Labyrinth after Trinity exams – students are able to spend a lesson in prayer and contemplation working around the active Labyrinth
- Prayer Spaces in November, for one day the Senior classroom is transformed to allow students active experiences of prayer.
- The Lord's Prayer experience – PACE attend to provide students an in-depth understanding of the Our Father through active experiences.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus – during June each form group says prayers in front of the statue in the Sacred Heart Garden. Discussion of the symbolism of the statue is discussed.
- Youth Alpha is offered by Tom Saddington and Sonia Hollowell

## **Formation Programme**

- Staff have access to the Ten Ten CPD sessions on worship
- Youth Alpha is offered to Senior and Sixth Form students
- Pope John Paul II Award is offered to Sixth Form students

## **Participation of Students and Staff**

- Blanchelande respects the beliefs and traditions of staff and students of other denominations and faiths and will endeavour to facilitate any specific practices required of their faith during the school day in a way which respect their custom.
- As we live out Catholic Social Teaching and the teachings of Jesus, every person has dignity and we make them feel welcome at school.
- As a Catholic School we expect staff to uphold the values and beliefs of Catholic teachings in their engagements and discussions with students, and where there is difficulty to use the direction of the Principal and Head of Theology.
- All staff and students are expected to attend all forms of collective worship and actively participate, unless their own faith background prevents this. In such instances we expect staff and students to be present, but not participate, and be respectful to the faith of the school that they have chosen to join.

## **Responsibility**

### **Governance**

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- There is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (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.

## **Principal**

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

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school 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 school 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 school.

## **Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school 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 school 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 pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- Pupils 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;
- Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils;
- 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, Vice Principal and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school;
- There is collaboration with local clergy and parishes;
- Liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service (CASO) and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

## **Phase Leaders**

- Ensure that form time prayers are being said regularly by the tutor teams as directed by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators
- Encourage students to engage with the Catholic life of the school
- Monitor form time prayers and collective worship in assemblies, to make sure they take place in line with our policy

### **Teaching and Support Staff**

- Organise daily morning prayers in form time and at appropriate times of the day.
- Accompany and supervise form groups throughout collective worship
- Encourage students to participate in prayer and liturgy
- Tutors to support students in writing and leading prayers, as appropriate.

### **All Staff**

- Engage in and support the Catholic ethos of the school
- Conduct themselves in a Christian manner
- Lead by example by participating in Collective worship during school

### **Resourcing**

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school'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 school is reflected in religious artefacts 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 school.

### **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 school. 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.

### **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: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

## Regular prayers

EYFS and Infants		Juniors		Seniors and Sixth Form	
When	What is said	When	What is said/done	When	What is said/done
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Dear God, I offer you this day, in all I do and think and say	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	God, we give you all of today, All we do and think and say. All our work and all our play, We want to do it in your way. Amen.	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	O Jesus, Though the most pure heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, Thoughts, works and sufferings of this day For all the intentions of your most Sacred heart. Amen.
<b>Lunchtime Prayer</b> (before)	1,2,3,4,5 thank you God that I'm alive. 6,7,8,9,10 thank you for my food Amen.	<b>Lunchtime Prayer</b> Before Lunch	Bless us, O Lord, And these your gifts Which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	<b>Lunchtime Prayer</b> Before Lunch	Bless us, O Lord, And these your gifts Which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(after)	Now the meal is done, We thank you Lord for everyone. Amen.	After Lunch	We give you thanks, Almighty God, for all your benefits, who live and reign, world without end. Amen.	After Lunch	We give you thanks, Almighty God, for all your benefits, who live and reign, world without end. Amen.
<b>End of the day prayer.</b>	God our Father, We softly say, Thank you for a lovely day. Amen.	<b>End of day prayer</b>	God our Father, we come to say, Thank you for your love today. Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light. Amen.	<b>End of day Prayer</b>	Glory Be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
<b>Also taught</b>	Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be Sign of the cross.	<b>Lent</b>	Stations of the Cross either in the hall or at the Little Chapel with each form.	<b>Lent</b>	Stations of the Cross either in the hall or at the Little Chapel with each form.
		<b>October and May</b>	Rosary	<b>Rosary Club – daily</b>	Rosary is said with appropriate mysteries for the correct day

## ANNUAL PLAN OF PROVISION

**Key Liturgical Events** (This will outline key Masses, holydays of obligation, sacrament of reconciliation and other services related to key dates in the school calendar)

### Michaelmas Term

<b>Date</b>	<b>Liturgy/Event</b>	<b>Phase</b>
Beginning of term	Start of academic year Mass	Infants to Sixth Form
1 <sup>st</sup> October	St Therese of Lisieux Feast Day	Infants to Sixth Form
October	Month of the Rosary	Infants to Sixth Form
October	Harvest Service	Infants and Juniors
1 <sup>st</sup> November if falls during term time	All Saints Mass	Infants to Sixth Form
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance service	EYFS to Sixth Form
Advent	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Juniors to Sixth Form
Advent	Carol Service	Seniors and Sixth Form
End of term	End of academic term Mass	Infants to Sixth Form

### Hilary Term

<b>Date</b>	<b>Liturgy/Event</b>	<b>Phase</b>
Beginning of term	Epiphany or start of academic term Mass	Infants to Sixth Form
21 <sup>st</sup> January	St Agnes feast day	Infants to Sixth Form
February if falls during term time	Ash Wednesday Mass/Service	Infants to Sixth Form
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Our Lady of Lourdes feast day – celebrated if St Bernadette’s feast day falls during the Easter holidays	Infants to Sixth Form
Lent	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Juniors to Sixth Form
Lent	Stations of the Cross during form time in the De La Salle Hall or Little Chapel	Infants to Sixth Form
Lent	Stations of the Cross during lunch time at the Little Chapel	Seniors and Sixth Form
End of term	End of academic term Mass	Juniors to Sixth Form

**Trinity Term**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Liturgy/Event</b>	<b>Phase</b>
First full week of term	Start of academic term Mass	Infants to Sixth Form
16 <sup>th</sup> April	St Bernadette feast day	Infants to Sixth Form
May if falls during term time	Ascension Day Mass	Infants to Sixth Form
End of term	End of academic year Mass	Infants to Sixth Form

