

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date revised	Author/reviewer	Section / page no. changed	Summary of change(s)
2	22/04/2026	MCn	N/A	Responsibilities section — splitting the roles "Head of RE and Chaplaincy" has been split into two separate subsections. The existing four bullet points (Annual Plan, Supporting students, Collaborating with clergy, Monitoring and evaluating) remain under Head of RE . A new Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator subsection has been inserted beneath it with its own responsibilities covering: coordinating and preparing liturgy, overseeing day-to-day delivery across both Catholic and inclusive strands, supporting RPE and pastoral staff, and being a focal point for ethos and spiritual direction.

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			<p>2. Principles of Prayer and Liturgy — reworded to reflect inspection feedback All five original principles have been replaced with language that is more direct and overt about prayer. The new principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overtly Catholic and Unapologetically Traditional</i> — making clear that Mass, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross etc. are not diluted • <i>Two Complementary Strands of Prayer</i> — naming the inclusive strand explicitly (silent prayer, ecumenical morning prayer, Muslim prayer room, TftW) as a parallel but distinct offering • <i>Active and Prayerful Participation</i> — shifting from "supporting engagement" to actively inviting people to pray • <i>Intentional and Purposeful Design</i> — replacing the "focus on inclusivity" framing with language about deliberate design for each audience <i>Rooted in Real Life</i> — retaining the connection to lived experience while tying in liturgical seasons and social justice <p>3. Coordinator section — removed the social activities line "Build community through social activities e.g. food and boardgames" has been marked for deletion, keeping the section clearly focused on prayer and liturgy.</p>
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He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:2-4

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1. Mission Statement

Our mission, inspired by the Christian tradition, is to serve the Catholic and wider community by providing Sixth Form education of the highest quality, acting in the spirit of the Gospel, and believing in the unique value of every individual as loved by God.

We aim to:

- Develop individuals intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually to reach their full potential.
- Foster a welcoming and supportive community grounded in faith, hope, and love.
- Encourage respect, gratitude, kindness, and service to build a caring environment.
- Recognize and celebrate the unique gifts of every person, ensuring equality and fairness for all.

2. Context

A sixth form college represents a pivotal stage in a student's life, transitioning from structured secondary education to a more independent, self-directed environment. During this period:

- Students explore their faith, developing personal autonomy while engaging with spiritual and moral issues.
- Many students may have limited familiarity with Catholic practices or may belong to other faith traditions or no faith.
- Prayer and liturgy must reflect these diverse needs while fostering a welcoming environment for reflection and spiritual growth.

Our policy emphasizes the importance of making acts of worship relevant and meaningful to this age group by providing opportunities for reflection, silence, and active participation. Silence, in particular, is highlighted as a universal form of prayer that transcends faith traditions, allowing all members to come together in unity and respect.

3. The Role of Prayer and Liturgy in College Life

Prayer and liturgy play a foundational role in shaping the Catholic identity of St. Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College. They serve as a key expression of the college's mission, fostering a sense of reflection, belonging, and spiritual growth among all members of the community.

While rooted in the Catholic tradition, our prayer and liturgical practices are designed to be meaningful and accessible to all, regardless of faith background. They:

- Support the spiritual and moral development of students and staff by encouraging moments of reflection and connection with shared values.
- Provide opportunities to explore the Catholic faith and its traditions, while respecting the diverse faith perspectives of the wider community.
- Promote a shared ethos of care, gratitude, and respect, nurturing a sense of unity within the college community.

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4. Aims of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Provide opportunities for all students and staff to encounter God and explore spiritual and moral questions in a meaningful way.
- Promote reflection and personal growth through prayer and liturgical experiences, appropriate to the diverse faith backgrounds within the college community.
- Foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose, grounded in the Catholic tradition while welcoming to individuals of all faiths and none.
- Encourage the development of a shared ethos of service, gratitude, and care that reflects Gospel values.
- Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to engage with the richness of Catholic liturgical traditions, while respecting individual beliefs and practices.

5. Principles of Prayer and Liturgy

Our approach to prayer and liturgy is guided by the following principles:

- **Overtly Catholic and Unapologetically Traditional:** At the heart of our provision is prayer and liturgy that is fully and authentically Catholic — the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Mass, and Advent and Lent reflections are offered without dilution, honouring the richness of the Catholic tradition.
- **Two Complementary Strands of Prayer:** Alongside our Catholic provision, we intentionally offer inclusive opportunities for reflection and prayer designed to welcome the wider college community — including silent prayer, ecumenical morning prayer, a dedicated Muslim prayer room during Ramadan, and Thought for the Week reflections. Both strands are purposefully designed to be accessible to those they are intended for.
- **Active and Prayerful Participation:** Students and staff are actively encouraged to engage in prayer — not merely to observe it. Whether through participating in Mass, joining the Rosary, or taking a moment of silent reflection, our community is invited to pray, not just to attend.
- **Intentional and Purposeful Design:** Every act of prayer and liturgy — whether overtly Catholic or broadly accessible — is deliberately planned with the audience in mind. We do not offer one-size-fits-all provision; we design with intention, ensuring each opportunity is genuine and appropriate for those it serves.
- **Rooted in Real Life:** Prayer and liturgy connect to the lived experiences of students and staff. Themed reflections, liturgical seasons, and social justice events ensure that our prayer life speaks to the world our community inhabits, deepening engagement with Gospel values.
- **Development of Skills:** Students are encouraged to participate in planning and leading liturgical activities, fostering leadership, creativity, and deeper engagement with prayer.

6. Provision for Prayer and Liturgy

- Morning Prayer in the Chapel
- Weekly Thought for the day Reflections during the first lesson
- Weekly reflections displayed on our café screens
- Advent and Lent Assemblies
- Student Led Christian Union
- Voluntary Mass
- Weekly staff briefings begin with a reflection on our termly college value
- Every INSET has a prayer and reflection to start the day

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- First day of autumn term starts with reflection led by a Priest
- Provision of a Muslim Prayer Room

7. Inclusivity in Practice

Prayer and liturgy at St. Brendan's Catholic Sixth Form College are designed to create a welcoming and respectful environment for all members of the community, regardless of their faith background. Inclusivity is a cornerstone of our approach, ensuring that every individual can feel valued and engaged in a way that honors their beliefs and experiences.

8. Responsibilities

Governors are responsible for:

- Reviewing the policy and implementing amendments.
- Developing an understanding of the liturgical year and its significance.
- Ensuring student voices are included in monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Allocating sufficient resources for prayer and liturgy.

The Principal ensures:

- Prayer and liturgy align with diocesan guidance.
- Adequate training and resources are provided.
- Partnerships with chaplaincy and clergy are nurtured.

9. Head of RE

Responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with local clergy and diocesan advisory services.
- Monitoring and evaluating prayer and liturgy practices

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Responsibilities include:

- Developing an Annual Plan of Provision.
- Supporting students in planning and leading liturgies.
- Coordinating, developing, supporting, and preparing liturgy and prayer across the life of the college.
- Overseeing the day-to-day delivery of prayer and liturgy, including both overtly Catholic provision and wider inclusive opportunities for reflection.
- Supporting RPE and pastoral staff in integrating prayer and liturgy into their work.
- Being a focal point for ethos and spirituality in the college, including providing one-to-one spiritual direction for students and staff.

Resources

- Annual budget allocation ensures sufficient funding.
- Spaces for prayer are maintained and reflect the liturgical seasons.
- Materials and resources, such as prayer books and digital aids, are readily available.

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10. Training and Formation

All staff are provided with:

- Induction training to understand their role in leading and supporting liturgy.
- Ongoing professional development focused on liturgical formation.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The quality and impact of prayer and liturgy are monitored and evaluated through:

- Lesson Visits and observations.
- Student voice surveys and focus groups.
- Records of liturgical activities

12. Provision for Act of Collective Worship post 16

Subsequent to the 2006 Education and Inspection Act the situation in relation to student post formal school leaving age in school or college if they are beyond formal school leaving age is:

Based on the 2006 Education Act on “Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance of worship”

(1) Section 71 of the SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance of religious worship, makes provision for exception and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows:

(1B) If a sixth-form pupil requests that they may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the pupil shall be excused.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including curriculum Religious Studies.

13. Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- In a prayer and liturgy folder within Chaplaincy, together with reflections and resources
- Through displays in the corridors, prayers on the electronic screens, reflections and staff and student bulletins

14. Evaluation

Evaluation takes place regularly through the Chaplaincy Team. Once a year the college’s

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provision for worship will be formally evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of the students through the SAR/QIP quality assurance process.

15. The coordinator for Collective Worship

The Chaplain, in coordination with the Head of RE, will design, lead and deliver Collective Worship in:

- Coordinating, developing, supporting and preparing liturgy and prayer in the life of the college;
- Supporting RPE and pastoral staff;
- Liaising with local clergy and organisations;
- Arranging residential retreats;
- Being a focal point for ethos and spirituality in the college;
- Developing opportunities for students to put their faith into action and raising awareness of social justice and peace.
- Be student and staff-facing and provide a venue for one-to-one spiritual direction
- Maintain the chaplaincy library and offer advice and reading material for students and staff
- liaise with representatives of the Student Union and representatives of other faith communities