

Prayer and Liturgy Policy



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VERSION CONTROL

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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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16. Mission Statement

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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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. . Aims of the Policy

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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.

20. Principles of Prayer and Liturgy

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

- Rooted in Catholic Tradition: Prayer and liturgy reflect the liturgical norms, teachings, and values of the Catholic Church while remaining accessible to all.
- Respect for Diversity: Acts of prayer and liturgy are designed to include and honour the diverse faith traditions and beliefs represented within the college community.
- Encouragement of Participation: Students and staff are supported to engage meaningfully in liturgical practices at a level that respects their faith background and capacity.
- Focus on Inclusivity: Practices such as moments of silence provide opportunities for collective reflection that unite the community, regardless of personal faith.
- Relevance to Life and Learning: Prayer and liturgy connect to the lived experiences of students and staff, encouraging personal reflection and a deeper understanding of Gospel values.
- Development of Skills: Students are encouraged to participate in planning and leading liturgical activities, fostering leadership, creativity, and deeper engagement with prayer.

21. 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
- First day of autumn term starts with reflection led by a Priest
- Provision of a Muslim Prayer Room

22. Inclusivity in Practice

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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.

23. 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.

Head of RE and Chaplaincy

Responsibilities include:

- Developing an Annual Plan of Provision.
- Supporting students in planning and leading liturgies.
- Collaborating with local clergy and diocesan advisory services.
- Monitoring and evaluating prayer and liturgy practices

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.

24. 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.

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25. 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

26. 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.

27. 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

28. Evaluation

Evaluation takes place regularly through the Chaplaincy Team. Once a year the college’s provision for worship will be formally evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of the students through the SAR/QIP quality assurance process.

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29. 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
- Build community through social activities e.g. food and boardgames
- 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