

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

September 2025 – July 2026

Mission Statement

“In Faith We Grow”



Aspiration

Belief

Compassion

Christ is at the centre of all we do at St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy, growing in faith together as a welcoming and inclusive school community directed by gospel values. At St Augustine, we are distinguished by care for all our community, meeting individual needs with fairness, understanding and justice. Our values, rooted in scripture, witness to our school Core Values of Aspiration, Belief and Compassion. Together the Core Values form the foundation of our Catholic life and mission and help us live out our Mission statement, ‘In Faith we Grow’.

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy is a school for the twenty first century; establishing an innovative, dynamic Catholic community to assist parents in the education and formation of their children and engendering a clear sense of purpose and aspiration within its members to ensure that they grow, learn, serve, and pray. A clear focus on doing what is right, to ensure the pupils grow not only in knowledge but in love, respect, and true fellowship ready to move on to the next stage in their educational and personal journey.

Purpose of the Policy



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This Prayer and Liturgy Policy support our mission and Core Values by outlining how we provide meaningful opportunities for personal and communal prayer, reflection, and worship. These include:

- Daily Form Sacred Time
- Weekly Form Prayer and Liturgy
- Weekly Year Group Assemblies
- Drop-in prayer opportunities in the Chapel
- Termly Holy Mass
- Celebrations of the Word
- Retreats and pilgrimages

Our school culture promotes respect, equality, and diversity, recognising that each person is uniquely created and loved by God.

School Motto

“Sperabo in Eum” – “I will trust in Him” (Psalm 90:2)

Our motto reflects our trust in God’s providence and is proudly displayed on our school crest.

Our Core Values

Aspiration – ‘For nothing is impossible with God’ (Luke 1:37)

Belief – ‘I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness’ (John 12:46)

Compassion – ‘So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them’ (Matthew 7:12)

St Augustine of Canterbury – Our Patron

St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, was a missionary monk from Rome known as the “apostle to the English.” His legacy of evangelisation, education, and perseverance inspires our school community. Students invoke his intercession daily during Sacred Time, and his image serves as a reminder of our call to mission and learning.



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Legal Requirement

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act, all maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship that is broadly Christian in nature. In Catholic schools, this worship is rooted in Catholic tradition and guided by diocesan and CES directives.

At St Augustine, we go beyond statutory compliance to foster a vibrant Catholic community where Christ is central. Our ethos is shaped by Gospel values of love, wisdom, integrity, justice, and compassion.

Definition of Terms

Prayer

Prayer is the lifting of the heart and mind to God. It includes thanksgiving, petition, intercession, praise, and contrition. At St Augustine, prayer is integral to spiritual development and takes many forms, including traditional Catholic prayers, silent reflection, contemporary prayers, and meditations on Scripture and the lives of the saints.

Liturgy

The official public prayer of the Church, including Holy Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Word, and other sacramental rites, all conducted in accordance with Church norms and liturgical books. At St Augustine this includes Celebrations of the Word, Mass in the local parish and in our school. Other liturgies include the Sacrament of Reconciliation at school and while away on pilgrimage. The school links with the Archdiocese of Liverpool's programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Celebration of the Word

A worship service based on Scripture, prayer, music, or symbolic action - without a priest or consecrated Eucharist. Assemblies at school use a Celebration of the Word usually based on the Sunday scripture while challenging the school community to consider their individual and personal response to what they have heard.

School Leadership and Provision

Governors

Governors set the strategic direction for Catholic life, approve budgets, and hold leaders accountable. A link governor works closely with the Headteacher, Head of RE, and Chaplain to support Prayer and Liturgy.



Headteacher

The Headteacher leads the Catholic mission of the school and appoints a senior leader to oversee chaplaincy, Prayer and Liturgy, supported by the Head of RE.

School Chaplain

The Chaplain coordinates all aspects of spiritual life, including planning liturgies, managing the Chapel, organising retreats, liaising with clergy, and facilitating outreach and diocesan events.

Staff

All staff are role models of faith and play a vital role in leading Form Sacred Time and Assemblies. Their daily witness supports students' spiritual growth.

Chaplaincy Representatives

Chaplaincy Representatives are selected collaboratively by Form Tutors and students to serve as spiritual leaders within their form groups and the wider school community. Identified by their Chaplaincy badges, they:

- Take a lead in Form Sacred Time and Assemblies
- Collaborate with the Chaplain and other Reps as part of the Chaplaincy Leadership Team
- Contribute to the creation and implementation of new initiatives, such as the development of the school prayer
- Participate in outreach projects, recorded Celebrations of the Word (linked to the St Joseph Multi-Academy Trust), and serve as readers during Masses and liturgies

Students

Students are central to the spiritual life of the school. They serve as Chaplaincy Reps, club leaders, volunteers, readers, and collaborators in planning and leading Prayer and Liturgy. Their voice and leadership are essential in shaping a vibrant and inclusive Catholic community.

Clergy

Local clergy are valued partners in the spiritual formation of our students. They support the sacramental life of the school through:

- Celebrating Holy Mass and Reconciliation
- Participating in school liturgies and retreats
- Offering pastoral support and spiritual guidance

Their presence reinforces the connection between the school and the wider Church.



Liturgical Calendar

Prayer and Liturgy at St Augustine of Canterbury are shaped by the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church. The school observes the seasons of:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Easter
- Ordinary Time

We also respond to special feasts and events announced by the Pope, the Bishops' Conference, or the Archbishop of Liverpool (e.g. Jubilee Years, Year of Prayer).

Aims

With Christ at the centre, St Augustine of Canterbury encourages the whole school community to share the liturgical life of the Church and experience the personal call to relationship with the God who made us and loves us. Prayer and Liturgy's aim is to provide students the opportunity to grow spiritually and personally, exploring human freedom, a personal relationship with Jesus, and the meaning of life. Each experience of Prayer and Liturgy encourages a call to personal mission and compassion for others. This is accomplished through the varieties and forms of prayer, spiritual experiences and social action available to students. Prayer and Liturgy is well planned, relevant and engaging for students.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Mass as the 'source and summit of the Christian life'. The Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics, and Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine, offering himself in sacrifice. For this reason, termly masses are central to the liturgical life at St Augustine.

Provision of Prayer and Liturgy

- Daily Form Sacred Time (Prayer and Liturgy) to worship God in Form time. This includes the school prayer.
- Prayer and Liturgy in form groups, year group Assemblies, and whole school settings.
- Masses at our local parish and in school.
- Sacred Space in the school Chapel and Form spaces, with relevant displays of faith in the Assembly Hall and school entry.
- Moments for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response, and prayer.
- An environment that develops an awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life; and a setting that explores the beliefs and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.



- Opportunities to develop a community spirit of mutual respect and solidarity based on the Catholic faith, Scripture, and with direct, explicit links to Catholic Social Teaching.
- Ways to discern how to put Catholic Social Teaching into action in the community and in the world. St Augustine of Canterbury supports the planning and implementation of projects demonstrating Catholic Social Teaching and serving the school, community and world.
- Opportunities for student participation and leadership in prayer, Prayer and Liturgy, Assembly, pilgrimages, clubs and outreach opportunities.

Participation and Inclusion

At St Augustine of Canterbury everyone can contribute and gain from their experiences in Prayer and Liturgy, regardless of their level of belief and commitment. Prayer and Liturgy provide everyone with the opportunity to gather in support of one another and to share in beliefs and values that unite us in our cohesive Catholic community. The community of St Augustine of Canterbury is committed to providing a full range of opportunities for all students, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural, or religious background. We recognise that all young people should be involved in the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by the parent or guardian and that teachers also have the right of withdrawal from Prayer and Liturgy.

Content and Delivery

The Prayer and Liturgy Calendar identifies a weekly theme from our school mission statement and a ‘teaching of the week’, usually based on the Sunday gospel, that permeates through our acts of worship. The liturgical calendar directs our Prayer and Liturgy resources weekly.

Acts of Prayer and Liturgy take place during:

- Daily Form Time:
 - Monday: Silent prayer
 - Tuesday: Personal intentions
 - Wednesday: Gospel-based Prayer and Liturgy
 - Thursday: Student-led prayer
 - Friday: Catholic Social Teaching and outreach
- Weekly Assemblies:
 - Introduced by the Chaplain with hymn, Scripture, and reflection
 - Scripture read by students
 - Staff-led reflections on the weekly theme
 - Student participation, especially Chaplaincy Reps
- Special Liturgies and Masses:
 - Year 7 Welcome Mass



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- Year 11 Farewell Mass
- Advent, Lent, and start-of-year Masses
- Celebrations of the Word for major feasts (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost)
- Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury
- Staff Prayer:
 - Morning prayer in the Chapel
 - Masses on INSET days, including the September Welcome Mass
- Chaplaincy Clubs and Outreach:
 - Youth SVP, CAFOD, Choir, Art Club, Knit & Crochet Club
 - Inclusive opportunities for all students to explore faith and creativity

Other experiences offered through Chaplaincy such as Art Club and Knit & Crochet Club, encourage the entire school community to explore creativity, fostering conversation and mutual understanding. These clubs provide a chaplaincy link for all students, including those who are not Christian or do not have a faith.

Sacramental Programmes

- Assemblies promoting the Sacrament of Confirmation occur every year, with Animate Youth Ministries of the Archdiocese of Liverpool leading.
- The school contacts parents about yearly sacramental preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation by letter.
- Catholic students in Years 8 and above are encouraged to be confirmed and helped to engage with the preparation and liturgy.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in Advent and Lent through a visiting priest for both students and staff.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available on pilgrimage/retreat experiences outside of school (ex. St Helens Schools pilgrimage, Rome, etc.). The Lourdes pilgrimage is promoted yearly.

The Chapel of St Augustine of Canterbury

The Chapel is a welcoming central space dedicated to Christian prayer in the Roman Catholic tradition. It also serves as a meeting space for the SVP and Chaplaincy Reps. Students, and staff come to the Chapel for a peaceful break, private prayer, and conversation with the Chaplain. The Chapel is open before school, breaktime and lunchtimes for clubs and meetings with students and student groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Academy, the monitoring and evaluation of Prayer and Liturgy are essential to ensuring that our provision is spiritually enriching, inclusive, and aligned with the mission of the Church.



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We work in close collaboration with our local parish and the Archdiocese of Liverpool, aligning our practice with diocesan mission priorities, sacramental provision, chaplaincy support, and spiritual formation policies. All planning is informed by:

- The Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- The Liturgical Calendar
- Diocesan guidelines and expectations

Evaluation Criteria

- Evaluation focuses on the following key areas:
- Quality of planning and delivery
- Participation of students and staff
- Spiritual impact on the school community
- Leadership opportunities and development
- Use of resources and sacred spaces

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher, SLT link, Chaplain, and Head of Religious Education work collaboratively to embed and develop Prayer and Liturgy across the school. This includes:

- Developing and reviewing the Prayer and Liturgy Policy
- Creating and maintaining a weekly calendar of themes, readings, teachings, and liturgical events
- Providing training and support for Form Tutors and staff to lead Sacred Time and Assemblies
- Offering technical support and theological guidance to staff
- Coordinating student participation in school and Archdiocesan liturgies
- Producing and distributing weekly Sacred Time resources
- Conducting drop-ins to Form Sacred Time by SLT, the Chaplain, and the Head of RE to offer support and feedback
- Gathering staff and pupil voice through questionnaires and informal feedback
- Sharing good practice across departments and year groups

This ongoing cycle of planning, delivery, reflection, and improvement ensures that Prayer and Liturgy remain a vibrant and integral part of school life, helping all members of the community to grow in faith and love.

