

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.”

JOHN 3:16

Compiled by: College Director	Last Reviewed: October 2025
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1. Introduction

As a School all that we do is in the context of knowing and following Jesus Christ.

Our Mission statement is simple for students to understand and is taken from our Lasallian heritage;

- *Be happy in the Lord, achieve excellence, one Lasalle - we remain undivided.*

This includes a quote from St Paul, our motto (Indivisa Manent) and the new District wide Lasallian tagline (one Lasalle).

This aspect of the school's work is monitored as part of the annual cycle of self-review the CSED, which is externally evaluated via Diocesan inspections.

2. The context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching, they should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

De La Salle College is part of the Lasallian worldwide community which has a rich heritage of Lasallian education, enabling young people to be the best they can be. As Catholic Lasallian community, we believe that all are involved in the process of learning and aim to provide our students with the very best experience of life. We aim to develop their talents, to gain personal fulfilment in life so that they leave our community with confidence, belief in God, in each other and in themselves.

3. Aims

We believe that through high quality collective worship, supported by engaging Religious Education and underpinned by effective pastoral processes, all members of our school community can come to know Christ. As such, the aims of this policy and the practice in the school are to:

- i. Enable students and staff to come to know the person of Jesus Christ.
- ii. Enable students and staff to know how our founder John Baptiste De La Salle was inspired by Jesus and during his ministry was encouraged by the Holy Spirit.
- iii. Ensure strong leadership and management of all aspects of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework across the school.
- iv. Ensure that all students have regular opportunities for spiritual and moral development throughout their time in our school.
- v. Ensure that high quality Religious Education is provided and that provision meets the directives of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.
- vi. Ensure that our status as a Catholic Lasallian Community is reflected in all aspects of our work.

Objectives

- i. To ensure that prayer and liturgy reflects the life of the Church in its seasons and feasts.
- ii. To reflect in our collective worship the rich heritage of the Lasallian community.
- iii. To secure the provision of a daily act of worship across the school.

- iv. To deliver high quality religious education that is valued by students, staff and parents as a core subject.
- v. To foster the spiritual development of all students and staff.
- vi. To support the work of the chaplaincy and RE teams in raising standards and providing for the spiritual and moral needs of staff and students.

4. Statement of requirement

In Jersey, the requirement for collective worship in schools is set out in the Education (Jersey) Law 1999, specifically Article 19. This law states that pupils in provided schools must attend acts of worship that are “broadly Christian” in nature. The practice is not daily (as in England), but at least once a week in Jersey schools. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from these acts under Article 20 of the same law.

The college has a strong tradition of being fully inclusive, and whilst we respect parental and Sixth Form student wishes, we encourage discussion of concerns to avoid students feeling excluded.

The school’s provision for Collective worship fulfils students’ entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which students in the school will be 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.

5. Responsibility

(a) Governing Body

The Governing Body, as guardians of the Catholic school’s life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- there is a Catholic Lasallian Life sub-committee with a designated member of the committee to have oversight of the:
 - Catholic Life and Mission
 - Religious Education
 - Collective Worship
- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic Lasallian life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- They will report to the governing body at least termly.
- the Prayer and Liturgy Policy is updated annually and shared with all stakeholders;

(b) College Director (CEO)

- to review the progress being made against annual development targets, and to set the strategic direction for the following year in consultation with the SLT and CLL Sub-committee.
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy, overseen by the Headteacher, that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

- to monitor school performance under the CSI framework

(c) Headteacher

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

- there is a member/s of the Senior Management Team responsible for:
 - Catholic Life and Mission
 - Religious Education
 - Collective Worship
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.
- prayer and liturgy is in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory;
- they work in partnership with the Chaplaincy team;
- 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;
- to monitor and update the CSED

(d) Member/s of the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for

- Catholic Life and Mission
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship
- ensure quality of provision in the respective elements of the CLL life of the College noted above
- advise and make recommendations to the Headteacher regarding current performance and planned developments.
- Support the Headteacher in taking a leading role in proactively ensuring the centrality of prayer and worship in the life of the school.
- Support the Chaplaincy team in planning the prayer and liturgy for the year

(e) Chaplaincy Team

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic Lasallian 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 collective worship 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 students, appropriate to age and ability;
- students are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of collective worship (according to their age and capacity), 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 students;
- 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 (this will include staff and pupil voice) and feed back into planning for future liturgies;
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher to support whole-school development and the Catholic Lasallian life of the school;
- there is collaboration with the Catholic Parish of Jersey; Local Catholic clergy and religious of other faith communities;
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service (CASO) and others is maintained to ensure the school keeps updated with best practice.

(f) Staff Leading Assemblies

(e.g., SMT, Heads of House, Head of Junior department, Head of Infants/EYFS, Chaplaincy Team etc)

- ensure acts of prayer and worship are carried out which reflect the theme of the week and includes a Lasallian act of collective prayer.
- The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of homilies, readings, and prayers.

(g) House Tutor/ Primary Class Tutor

- in an assembly, it is the responsibility of the tutor, or staff member escorting a tutor group/primary class, to accompany and remain with the tutor group throughout
- liturgy of the word/Mass to assist with supervision. In the event of over-running into lesson time, which should not be a frequent occurrence, staff may leave whilst proceedings continue, if they have another lesson to attend.
- Tutors should organise and ensure daily morning prayer takes place in tutor time. They should create appropriate conditions for morning prayer and encourage their tutees to participate fully in prayer and liturgy. They act as appropriate role models for students and authentic witnesses to the life of the school.

(h) All staff

- will actively engage with, promote and uphold the Lasallian ethos and Catholic values of the school. They should conduct themselves in accordance with the school's mission statement whenever they engage with any member of the community, whether colleague, student or parent. They lead by example in their participation in morning prayer, liturgy of the word and the sacraments, enabling each other and students to grow in their faiths.

(i) Parents & Carers

- agree to enable the Catholic Lasallian Life of the school to work through their support. Parental contribution to the prayer life of the school can be made through attendance at invited events, the weekly parent bulletin or through their own prayers for the school.

6. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

At De La Salle, we combine our celebration of the word with the delivery of Collective worship in assemblies and morning prayer during tutor time. This helps to ensure that prayer and liturgy takes place within a broad educational framework.

Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading prayer and liturgy over the course of the year. Pupil voice is actively encouraged through surveys, the school council and engagement with the Chaplaincy Team.

The school is committed to an active approach to collective worship in the belief that it is a significant element in our attempts to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. In this context prayer and liturgy assumes its rightful importance and reflects the ethos of our school.

We, as a school, are fully committed to ensuring the social, moral, spiritual and cultural beliefs of all are met. This includes taking into consideration those who may have religious affiliations, and those, who do not. This policy should be read in conjunction with the mutually supportive SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) policy.

Morning prayer

Daily morning prayer at both our Primary and Secondary phases:

- begins with the sign of the cross
- Followed by the invocation “Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God”.

This acts as a reminder that we are a Christian community and part of the global De La Salle family.

- The theme for the week includes our daily act of collective worship and is overseen by the Heads of House and the Chaplaincy team and is reflected in the weekly “Lasallian Reflections” (the wider school community and family prayer resource).
- In the primary phase morning prayer is taken from Lasallian resources or the Ten Ten prayer resource. It is overseen by the respective Heads of Department and the Chaplaincy team.

Masses

- We celebrate a welcome Mass during the advent term with our Year 7 students in the school.
- At the end of the advent and ascension terms and on Founder’s Day we have a whole College Mass which take place at St Thomas Church.

The Sacraments

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each week in the College Chapel.
- Students are prepared by the Chaplaincy team for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

- Reconciliation is offered with the support of the local clergy at both the primary and secondary phases of the school.

Assemblies and Celebration of the Word

- In the Secondary Phase House Assemblies are held once a week, with each House group attending on a particular day.
- In the Primary Phase there is a weekly Primary school assembly held on Monday morning.
- Members of the Senior Management team, Heads of House and the Chaplaincy team lead assemblies in accordance with the theme of the week; this also links into morning prayer Lasallian Reflections ensuring continuity and cohesiveness.

*In exceptional circumstances, this may be delivered using alternative methods such as via Teams.

Students are encouraged to play an active part in prayer and liturgy and through pupil voice the College endeavours to ensure the needs of all are met.

Retreats

A programme of retreat days is also in place within both the primary and secondary phases of the school. This is principally done during activities week in the Ascension Term and for the Sixth form on the welcome retreat held in the Advent term. We also offer opportunities to take part in the Kintbury Experience at St. Cassian's retreat centre

Other experiences

The Chaplaincy team coordinate a regular schedule of prayer groups and other activities such as Youth Alpha, yearly events such as Remember those we love and opportunities to participate in youth events such as the CYMFED Flame gathering.

Staff prayer as part of our staff well-being activities and other events such as Coffee & Clergy are also coordinated between the Chaplaincy team and the well-being co-ordinators over the course of the year.

7. 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. The College Chapel is a space for contemplation, prayer and liturgy. The Cedar room is a space for students to encounter the Holy Spirit in a lively youth environment. The LSC is a place of support and good companionship. Each of these dedicated spaces are furnished and maintained as such, and both the Chapel and the Cedar room are updated to reflect the Church's liturgical seasons.

Staff training and formation costs are appropriately funded to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

8. 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.

All new staff have either a day of Lasallian prayer and formation or a dedicated period of time with the Chaplaincy team to reflect on their membership of our Catholic Lasallian community. This time is delivered by the Chaplaincy team and forms part of staff induction which is monitored by a member of SMT.

Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation.

There will also be the opportunity for INSET time to be dedicated to whole-staff professional development and well-being at least once a year.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of collective worship and RS teaching will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve key stakeholders. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

- Monitoring via meetings (at least termly) between the Catholic Lasallian Life sub-committee and the Headteacher.
- An annual oversight learning walk by each of the respective designated members of the CLL sub-committee focused on the:
 - Catholic Life and Mission
 - Religious Education
 - Collective Worship
- Monitoring by Headteacher, Designated members of SMT, Chaplaincy Team, Middle management etc via engagement with Quality Assurance Processes and Line Management, updating via the College Director the CSED.
- Review of this policy as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

10. Communication

This policy will be primarily communicated to all stakeholders via publication on the school website.