



THE MARIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love,
we achieve together.

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Policy compiled by:	Head of RE
Responsible committee:	Full Governing Board
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Guidance used	DABCEC Guidelines Bishops Conference of England and Wales
<i>This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.</i>	

Our Mission

I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

With Christ as our guide, we learn, we love, we achieve together.

Our Values

And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. (John 13: 34-35)

With Christ as our guide,

The values Christ embodied, the Gospel values, are the basis of our school life. The Gospel values are: love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, faith, integrity, humility, service, peace, hope and prayer.

we learn,

We learn in a safe, encouraging community of high expectations for the achievement and conduct of all. The British Values - democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths - underpin our curriculum. We encourage all our children to develop the qualities of a Marist Learner: enthusiasm, perseverance, confidence, reflection, collaboration and independence.

we love,

At The Marist, rules about how we behave are based on this commandment: "Love one another". We believe that it is important to value and respect others; forgiving and reconciling when mistakes are made.

we achieve together.

We work hard so that learning is stimulating, challenging and engaging. Our expectations for all children are high, for both work and behaviour. We celebrate the talents and achievements of all so that children can develop spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.

Our mission statement is centred on the core teaching of Jesus that we must love God and love one another as He has loved us. Christ is at the very centre of our mission statement.

We want Him to be at the very centre of our school. Our mission statement has been devised by all and is accessible to all. We call on each child and adult in our school community to live out the mission statement each and every day.

Religion is at the heart of everything we do and pervades every aspect of our school life: "...Religious Education is not one subject amongst many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life." (Bishops Conference of England and Wales 1988)

The Marist Catholic Primary School, in partnership with the Parish and Parents, will provide high quality Catholic Education. Through the love of God, we will foster individual pupils, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically, by encouraging each child to strive for personal achievement and by developing awareness that his/her contribution is necessary for the good of the community.

We believe the outcome of excellent RE teaching and learning is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Prayer

At The Marist we aim to support our school community to strengthen their relationship with God by valuing and respecting the power of prayer. We provide our school community with a variety of different times to pray in different ways including class liturgies, worship through song, sharing the Rosary, whole school worship and many others. We aim for children to understand that prayer can be formal and informal, it is an opportunity to speak, listen and respond to God. We also have set times of the day when we pray together as a class: Start of the day, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day. Children are taught to make the Sign of the Cross and know by heart the following prayers: The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary and The Glory be. Children are also encouraged to pray the Rosary and learn Mass responses.

Collective Worship

Daily acts of Collective Worship are the foundation of our daily life at The Marist. The opportunity to gather as a community is important to us, we pray, sing, celebrate, teach and proclaim the Good News. The structure of our Collective Worship is: Gather, proclaim, respond and go forth. Monday begins with Worship led by our Head of School who models the key structure, readings and teachings. This is used to support children and teachers with leading Worship throughout the rest of the week.

Our aims of Collective Worship at The Marist are:

- ❖ To assist parents/carers in the education and religious formation of their child
- ❖ To nurture and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual as a member of God's family
- ❖ To share in the mission of the Church to make Christ known to all
- ❖ To ensure that the Good News of Jesus Christ is at the heart of the experience of every member of the school community
- ❖ To encourage sensitivity and promote an appreciation of the wonder and mystery of God and His creation
- ❖ To provide an environment where all members of the school community are enabled to deepen their relationship with God through a variety of opportunities, including the spoken word, mime, music, dance, drama, art, silent reflection etc.

- ❖ To celebrate Mass with the parish family and foster strong links with the wider community
- ❖ To enable pupils/students to grow in their knowledge of liturgical understanding and celebration
- ❖ To develop an awareness, experience and understanding of the place/role of symbol to express feelings and beliefs: e.g. light, water, food, season etc.
- ❖ To reinforce prayers which are part of Catholic tradition
- ❖ To ensure all pupils/students are able to fulfil their God-given talents, to be the best they can be and receive every opportunity to thrive and achieve academic excellence and personal fulfilment
- ❖ To create a real sense of community among pupils/students, teachers, and all staff members
- ❖ To ensure that spirituality is incorporated throughout the school curriculum

During our Whole School Gospel Worship, the readings and prayers are led by Year 6 children. During in class Collective Worship, the children are actively encouraged to read readings and prayers. Marist Learner certificates are presented to the children during Wednesday Celebration Worship. Below is an overview of our Collective Worship timetable:

Day of the Week	Worship Format	Focus	Led by
Monday 9.00am	Whole School Gospel Worship	Sunday's Gospel	Head of School
Tuesday 9.00am	Worship through Song	Liturgical focus	Music Lead
Wednesday 9.00am/ 9.40am	Celebration Worship	Sunday's Gospel at KS level	Class teacher
Thursday 9.00am	In Class Collective Worship	Sunday's Gospel at class level	Class teacher
Friday 9.00am	Class Worship to parents Child led liturgy Mass	Curriculum learning Choice of scripture Liturgical focus	Class Group of children Parish Priest

Liturgy

The celebration of Mass is an important part of our spiritual life at The Marist. We aim for Mass to be a community celebration which gathers together children, all staff, parents and parishioners. Each Mass is led by a different KS2 class who learn and share the readings and bidding prayers. Mass is celebrated to mark the beginning of each term as well as Holy Days of Obligation and other key events in the year of the Church. Whole school Mass is celebrated in our school hall, and led by our Parish Priest. Our liturgical calendar is:

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New School Year Mass ❖ Education Sunday (Our Lady) ❖ 3M Feast Day ❖ 4T Feast Day 	January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Epiphany Mass ❖ Start of Term Mass 	April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Easter and Start of Term Mass ❖ 1G Feast Day ❖ 3B Feast Day
October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Harvest Mass ❖ The Rosary 	February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ash Wednesday Liturgy 	May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ascension Day Mass ❖ Marian Mass

❖ 2F Feast Day ❖ 6L Feast Day		❖ The Rosary
November ❖ All Saints Day ❖ Remembrance ❖ 5C Feast Day ❖ 2A Feast Day	March ❖ RD Feast Day ❖ 4P Feast Day ❖ 5J Feast Day ❖ Lent Reconciliation ❖ Paschal Performance ❖ Stations of the Cross	June ❖ Mass for FHC children ❖ 6T Feast Day ❖ St Peter and St Paul Mass ❖ 1P Feast Day
December ❖ EYFS Advent Performance ❖ KS1 Advent Performance ❖ Advent Reconciliation ❖ KS2 Advent Service ❖ Advent Mass		July ❖ End of year and leavers Mass ❖ RD Feast Day (Summer holidays)

In addition to our whole school Masses, our KS2 children visit Our Lady’s Church for a weekday Mass twice a year. They visit for their class feast day and at another point in the year. At these Masses the children read the bidding prayers and staff or parents share the readings. Our EYFS and KS1 children celebrate their class feast day with a liturgy in class.

Links with the home

As a school we recognise the central role parents have in the religious education of their children. As the Statement of the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales on Religious Education in Catholic Schools ‘2000’ states, “The first educators in the faith are parents. It is they, above all others, who establish in their children the first sensitivity and responsiveness to the presence of God, to the practice of prayer and to the patterns of life in the community of faith, the parish. By their example in the home and in the participation in the Mass and the other sacraments the foundations of a life-long faith and discipleship in their children are laid down.” With this in mind, we believe it is essential to establish and maintain links with parents through:

- ❖ Home- School Agreement
- ❖ Welcoming prospective and new parents
- ❖ Regular information about the child, their progress and their welfare
- ❖ Families supporting the work of the school, at home
- ❖ Providing information about the school and what is happening
- ❖ Families and parishioners sharing the religious life of the school

Links with the Wider Community

We welcome the visits from our Parish Priest and other members of the Clergy and value the clergy’s contribution to the teaching of R.E. in the classrooms. We also work very closely with deanery and Xavier colleagues sharing expertise, resources and ideas as well as organising celebrations. We attend the annual Xavier Celebration of Mass at the start of each school year. We are proud to celebrate and share our journey of faith with colleagues, pupils and members of our academy community. Finally, we regularly encourage the children to participate in fund raising for the benefit of the local and wider community.