

# St Robert of Newminster

Catholic School & Sixth Form College

## Prayer & Liturgy Policy

Let Your Light Shine



**Bishop Wilkinson**  
Catholic Education Trust  
Through Christ, in Partnership

### **Intent for Prayer & Liturgy:**

St Robert's aims to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together in community to worship God. Collective Worship will reflect the traditions of our Church, taking into account the spiritual and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions, faith communities or none.

### **We endeavour to do this by:**

- Helping to develop the faith of each individual within our community
- Ensuring that our School is a caring community
- Giving pupils an insight into and understanding of Gospel values
- Developing a sense of mission
- Encourage those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Help those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Include pupils from other Christian traditions, or none or from other faith backgrounds
- Provide an educational experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

Therefore, at the start of each day staff and pupils will pray together using the format of gather, listen, response and mission. Our prayers will reflect our School Vision, Mission & Values which are underpinned by the Gospel and Church.

### **Our Vision**

At St Robert of Newminster we recognise that each individual member of our community is created in God's image with unique talents and abilities. We nurture each person through loving relationships and rich daily experiences centred on the teachings of Christ. We affirm the dignity of each individual and our values underpin everything we do across our school, with and for each student and member of staff to enable them to 'Let their light shine'.

### **Our Values**

**Faith:** A prayerful community rooted and guided by the teachings of Jesus

**Respect:** A diverse community, created in the image of God, whose members are treated with respect and dignity

**Vocation:** A hard-working community that helps people recognise their own unique purpose

**Excellence:** A dedicated community that strives for excellence in our learning and conduct

**Aspiration:** A community built upon high expectations of ourselves and others







**Integrity:** A just community with a firm understanding of what is right, that acts with honesty and kindness

### Implementation of prayer & liturgy:

- Weekly assembly which will be coordinated by the Senior Leadership Team, Head of House and students
- Daily prayer and reflection in tutor groups coordinated by Chaplain
- House Masses (subject to availability of clergy)
- Prayer & Liturgy focused on the liturgical calendar / school year
- Opportunity for weekly prayer/liturgy/Mass in the school chapel for both staff and students (subject to availability of clergy)
- Opportunity for termly Mass/liturgy for staff (subject to availability of clergy) and weekly prayer led by the Chaplain
- Appropriate liturgical celebrations e.g. Advent, Lent and Harvest

### Intended impact of prayer & liturgy:

- Reflect upon the mystery that is God
- Provide opportunities for students and staff to pray together
- Heighten student's awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life
- Grow in liturgical understanding with specific reference to the Catholic tradition
- Respond to life's challenges, enjoy celebrations and comfort/console at times of difficulty
- Celebrate the richness and diversity of creation (environmental stewardship)
- Give opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer
- Express our faith as a Christian community
- To support and enhance the personal development of our students

Faith	Respect	Vocation	Excellence	Aspiration	Integrity
 Faith					
A prayerful community rooted and guided by the teachings of Jesus	A diverse community, created in the image of God, whose members are treated with respect and dignity	A hard working community that helps people recognise their own unique purpose	A dedicated community that strives for excellence in our learning and our conduct	A community built upon high expectations of ourselves and others	A just community with a firm understanding of what is right that acts with honesty and kindness
"Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith."  Pope Francis	"Treat people the same way you want them to treat you."  Luke 6:31	"Let us seek to live in a way that is always worthy of our Christian vocation"  Pope Francis	"Dear young people do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"  Pope Francis	"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works"  Matthew 5:16	"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth"  1 John 3:18

### **Role of the Leader of Catholic Life & Mission (including Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team):**

- Provide and offer training and support for the Chaplain and teaching staff
- Point of contact for all staff for matters pertaining to the Catholic Life & Mission
- Identify and meet the training needs of those involved in chaplaincy in school
- Oversee the organisation of Catholic Life & Mission within the school
- Assistance with sacred spaces (school chapel)
- Opportunities to meet and discuss ideas and problem-solve together
- Assistance with the planning and preparation of key Liturgical celebrations including major feasts and seasons
- Ensure the website reflects the Catholic Life & Mission of the school community
- Lead the monitoring of collective worship and ensure this is regularly evaluated

### **Role of the Chaplain (further details in appendix 1):**

- Make prayer engaging and meaningful for staff & pupils
- Increase involvement of our young people in the prayer life of their school
- Develop whole school spirituality events including retreats and liturgies
- Develop links with the local parish community
- Lead on any and all events associated with the Catholic Life & Mission of the school that will enhance the personal development of our students
- Support the monitoring of collective worship and be part of the self-evaluation process

### **Role of Head of House:**

- Support the delivery of meaningful weekly prayer and reflection through assembly
- Model the Catholic Life & Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in prayer & liturgy
- Encourage involvement in prayer & liturgy
- Support the monitoring of collective worship and be part of the self-evaluation process of staff and students

### **Role of Form Tutor:**

- Support the consistent delivery of meaningful daily prayer and reflection (daily prayer is a non-negotiable requirement of our Catholic Life & Mission)
- Model the Catholic Life & Mission through enthusiasm for and participation in Prayer & Liturgy
- Encourage involvement in Prayer & Liturgy

## Appendix 1

### The Role of the Chaplain:

- Support the leader of CL&M in formulating a written policy for Prayer & Liturgy
- Support the leader of CL&M in the development plan for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes, and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all
- Organising themes for Collective Worship, Liturgy & Daily Prayer
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g., through modelling different prayer styles
- Supporting with transition of pupils in Year 6/7 and Sixth Form

### Planning, recording, monitoring, and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation that will provide evidence for inspection and governor reports
- Support in the observation of acts of Collective Worship and provide feedback
- Informing the leader of CL&M of standards and developments in Collective Worship
- Gather and collate feedback from staff and students

### Communication:

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Support the leader of CL&M with induction for newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors, and the parish community
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

### Professional development/Ongoing formation:

- Support the leader of CL&M with the leading and organisation of in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training (where necessary)
- Keeping up to date by personal reading and professional development

### Resources:

- Evaluating existing resources and providing resources to support staff and students with prayer and liturgy
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently
- Ensure that symbols and icons of the Catholic faith are displayed throughout the school