



St John Bosco
ARTS COLLEGE

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

2024-2025



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Mission Statement

'Together we inspire each other to flourish in faith, hope and love'

Our Purpose

At St John Bosco, we provide an ambitious Catholic education that lays foundations for our students and our communities to flourish into the best version of themselves.

By working together, through the Salesian values we share, we believe gladness and joy should be at the heart of everything we do, supporting future generations to surpass their incredible potential.

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' John 10:10

Our Vision

We want everyone within the St John Bosco family, to go cheerfully into the world, sharing love, knowledge & kindness.

"Serve the Lord with gladness" Psalm 100:2

Our Values

At St John Bosco, everything we do is underpinned by our shared values;

Love, Faith, Community, Respect & Hope

Each represent and reflect us as individuals, as a Catholic Salesian college and a strong pillar of our local community.

'Faith, hope, love but the greater of these is love' 1 Corinthians 13:13

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy at St John Bosco

We believe that by beginning each day with an act of collective worship, we strengthen and support what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Christian worship in our Catholic community is concerned with taking the time to encounter God and become aware of His presence in our daily lives. Within this time, we give glory, praise and thanks to God for everything that He has given us.

Collective worship is rooted in the distinct Salesian nature of our school and the pillars of Salesian spirituality, faith, service and community. Worship in our school community is more than just a legal requirement but an integral part of our daily school life which must strive to be inclusive of all members of our community, staff and students, regardless of where they may be personally on their faith journey. As we journey with Jesus we are guided by St John Bosco's footsteps in providing the young with an education that encompasses a way of life embedded in the Salesian ethos. We assist the young as assistants not superiors, the emphasis of this philosophy is on relationship rather than role. Together we find God in the ordinary, everyday people and events of life, just as our founder St John Bosco did.

Young people need and desire an experience of reflection, prayer and stillness. Opportunities for 'Sabbath time' in modern society are few and far between, but all the more valuable and necessary for this.

Prayer at St John Bosco is a key element of pastoral care - a means of being with pupils, listening to what is happening in their lives, sharing experiences with them and offering them opportunities, challenge and invitation to grow. As a Salesian school this is what we do by making our environment nurture the young as a school a place of learning, a home, where they belong, a church where they encounter God and a playground where they learn through fun.

"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved...you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."
St John Bosco

Any encounter with God should also change our lives, which is why our worship should therefore meet students where they are at, yet challenge them and journey with them, through their own human experience so that our worship becomes a lived expression of the daily life, needs and concerns of our Catholic community.

Our school community, pupils and staff, consists of a range of faith backgrounds and none. We maintain that our acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", but out of respect to those participating, it is not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Provision for Students

Prayer and Liturgy in Form Time:

- Every morning, every student will begin their day at school by participating in form time collective worship, also known as the 'Daily Prayer Moment'.
- Each week of the academic year follows a theme linked to the Liturgical year and help to focus the daily collective worship that takes place. The weekly theme is published in the weekly bulletin and staff are reminded during daily staff briefings.
- Resources, such as PowerPoints and videos, are created by the Chaplaincy team and used by staff to support the delivery of the 'Daily Prayer Moment'.
- Collective worship during Form time will usually include a reflection and always finish with a prayer. On Fridays, the school prayer is used as a way to signify the end of collective worship within the school week.
- Staff are encouraged to enrich these resources by adding in, when appropriate, their own thoughts and reflections to enhance the experience for the students.
- Tutors actively encourage student participation in the planning and delivery of collective worship during form time. However, staff also understand that prayer and reflection is a personal experience and this would never be forced upon anyone.
- Tutors are responsible for creating a respectful, calm and purposeful environment that is conducive for daily prayer.

Prayer and Liturgy as a year group:

- Once every week, each year group will come together as an opportunity to pray and reflect as a wider community.
- This collective worship will again follow the weekly theme and be rooted in scripture linked to the theme.
- Students enter the space for prayer, usually 'The Hill' or 'Teaching School Hall' and hear the 'Call to Prayer'; a piece of music that helps to focus the mind and set the right atmosphere for prayer.
- The prayer and liturgy is often led by a staff member, who will actively encourage student involvement via reading, reflection or other appropriate means.
- Each form group also has the opportunity to lead their own prayer and liturgy for the rest of the year group. This further enhances the school mission of allowing our students to flourish and pupil participation is actively encouraged.

Whole school celebrations:

- Across the Liturgical year, the whole school will come together to celebrate as one community.
- These celebrations provide an opportunity for reflection and prayer at key times throughout the year and are enhanced by the support of the Music and Performing Arts department, who help bring the liturgy to life.
- Whole school celebrations/liturgy include:
 - The Feast of St John Bosco
 - Year 7 Welcome Mass
 - Year 12 Welcome Mass
 - Advent Service
 - Ash Wednesday
 - Easter Service
 - Year 11 and 13 Leavers' Mass
- Whenever possible, parents/carers are invited to attend these key events and are very much part of the Catholic Life of the school.

What else is on offer for students?

- Years 7-11 participate in an annual retreat planned by the Chaplaincy team.
- The retreats are rooted in the Salesian values of Home, Church, School and Playground, offering the students a unique experience that allows for reflection and spiritual development.
- St John Bosco Arts College also supports the local parishes, and the Archdiocese, to prepare the students for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The preparation is supported by the KS3 RE curriculum
- All students are able to join the Faith in Action group, led by the School Chaplain. The Chaplain works with these students to help them work towards achieving their qualification and updates the wider staff with their progress.
- KS5 students are all able to sign up to CAFOD Youth Leaders. They work with students from other Sixth Forms/Colleges to train and undertake their role to grow the Catholic Life of the School.
- Students are actively encouraged to be involved with Salesian groups for the young, such as VIDES.
- Students in Year 10 and 11 are also encouraged to attend the Archdiocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes and the school support the fundraising process when needed.
- Before Year 11 students sit their exams, the Salesian Sisters host a 'Salesian Keep in Touch Day' to make sure that students know they are always part of the Salesian family.

CDP for staff

- Regular CPD takes place across the academic year to support effective delivery of prayer and liturgy.
- During staff induction, the Chaplaincy team will support staff members new to the school on the expectations around prayer and liturgy.
- Refreshers on how to lead prayer and liturgy to a form group, year group and whole school take place regularly throughout the year and bespoke support is offered when needed.
- Staff are supported to keep the charism of the school alive and well with the support of the Salesian Sisters.
- INSET time is used for formation of staff, Catholic Social Teaching and other ways to further enhance the Catholic Life of the school are built into the CPD calendar.
- Staff voice is taken to ensure that any training needs are met.

Monitoring and evaluating the provision

- The delivery of prayer and liturgy is monitored regularly through drop-ins, learning walks and observations.
- Monitoring is led by the Chaplaincy team, SLT, Pastoral leaders and Governors.
- Pupil and staff voice are used as part of the feedback process to support the evaluation process.

*“The school was not the end;
it was rather the instrumental means for improving the way of life.”*
St John Bosco



Our mission, vision and values

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hope and love.'**

Our vision

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Our mission

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Our values

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Love



Faith



Community



Respect



Hope



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