



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Key Information	
Policy	Prayer and Liturgy Policy
Policy Lead	KS
Last Reviewed	June 2026
Approved by Principal/Governing Body	June 2026
New Review	June 2027
Filing Classification	Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

1. Background

Xaverian College Manchester was founded by the Xaverian Congregation. The College is now under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Salford; however the Governing Body and the Trustees continue to base the College's mission on the ideals of the Xaverian Congregation and their Mission Statement from which the College Aims are derived.

As an expression of gospel values and teaching, the Mission commits the College to embrace the agendas of equality and diversity, as well as safeguarding, social inclusion and widening participation. The College Aims, which are reviewed annually by the Board of Governors, describe how the College intends to implement its Mission and respond to serving the population of Manchester and Greater Manchester.

2. Our Mission Statement

Jesus Christ taught that God is at the centre of our lives and that the love of truth and concern for the needs of others must be fundamental to our way of living.

Inspired by Jesus Christ and by the missionary zeal of their founder, Theodore James Ryken, the Xaverian Brothers are dedicated to the creation of schools and colleges as communities in which these truths are the guiding principles and in which the spiritual, moral and intellectual talents of their students are nurtured.

A Xaverian College must provide opportunities for growth in the knowledge and practice of the Roman Catholic religion through prayer, worship, study and service to others in and beyond the College community.

The obligation to help students to develop all their talents calls for a commitment on our part to good teaching, dedicated pastoral care and a readiness to relate to students both inside and outside the classroom. Through this commitment, the students will experience and respond to the good will and concern of their teachers.

The cause of justice is an essential theme in the message of Christianity. In a Xaverian College, staff and students will be conscious of the demands of social justice in local, national and international issues and will seek to discover ways in which they can most appropriately respond as individuals and as a community.

Our students are living in a secular society where persuasive forces influence them away from a spiritual view of life. In the same spirit of faith and hope which inspired our founder, we wish to commend to our students a way of life which is rooted in the love of God and our neighbour.

3. The Context of Prayer & Liturgy at Xaverian

Worship in the Catholic college, is more than just a requirement. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. It involves giving glory, honour and thanks to God. It is an integral part of the College life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Christian worship in a diverse Catholic college is our loving response to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. However, Xaverian is a very diverse college. Approximately a third of our students come from a Roman Catholic background. Many other faith groups are represented in our student and staff population. As a result, our prayer offer to our staff and students reflects this great diversity. We aim to offer both regular opportunities for involvement in the sacramental life of The Church to those who are from the Catholic tradition and alternative offers of prayer for all of our community, irrespective of faith background. At all times, we are led by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales directives as laid out in the most recent Prayer and Liturgy Directory (October 2023).

We acknowledge that the Mass is both the source and the summit of our faith, but cannot be the only offer of collective worship that we present to our students. Our opportunities of collective prayer are primarily based around Catholic liturgy. They reflect the liturgical calendar and are grounded in scripture. We aim to invite people of all traditions to contribute to these liturgies and, in so doing, enrich their own lives and the lives of others. The liturgical calendar allows us to create such liturgies that can be wholly inclusive by focusing on key themes which unite all traditions, such as creation, social justice, charity or the mystery of God.

4. Statement of Requirement

Section 70 of the 1988 Education Act requires that all Catholic Sixth Form Colleges are in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (College Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). However, the law requires the College to recognise and respect that students have the legal right to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (College Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

5. The Place Of Prayer & Liturgy in the life of Xaverian College

The College's provision for Prayer and Liturgy will fulfil students' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers, readings and liturgical music with which students and staff will be familiar. Most Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time. In the context of the College, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not required to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education, however, the opportunities for bringing large numbers to gather at once through Core RE means that collective worship can be offered through Core RE at key points of the liturgical year, such as Advent or Lent.

Prayer & Liturgy at the College takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- ✓ Those who form part of the worshipping community of the Church
- ✓ Those for whom College may be their first and only experience of the Church
- ✓ Those from other Christian backgrounds

- ✓ Those from other world faith backgrounds

6. Responsibility

(a) Governance

The Governors, as guardians of the Catholic college's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Prayer and Liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the College and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person who is responsible for Prayer and Liturgy in the College
- the Prayer and Liturgy Policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for Prayer and Liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic College

(b) Principal

The Principal, as the spiritual leader of the College as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- Prayer and Liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the College and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for Prayer and Liturgy
- those responsible for Prayer and Liturgy in the College have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for Prayer and Liturgy in the College

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator

Those responsible for Prayer and Liturgy ensure that:

- Prayer and Liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the College and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Liturgy across the college 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, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- students are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy according to their age and capacity, and 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 and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy is reported to the Principal and Governing Body to support whole-college development and the Catholic life of the College
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes

- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice

7. The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship aims to provide opportunities for all students and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate God's creation, particularly in the dignity of man
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop a community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To engage in opportunities to use prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

8. What Prayer and Liturgy looks like at Xaverian College

Collective Worship is planned following the structure of the Church's seasons, Holy Days of Obligation and Feast Days including St Francis Xavier's day.

The College will give:

- students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and backgrounds in order for them to feel confident in participating in the liturgical life of the College.
- bespoke opportunities for staff to engage in the liturgical life of The Church.
- weekly opportunities outside of the curriculum to celebrate the Sacraments
- weekly opportunities to engage in The Word
- College meetings begin with the College prayer
- space and resources for private and individual spiritual reflection for all in our community
- opportunities to all in the community to meditate on themes of the calendar of The Church
- every student opportunity to engage in meditation on the Dignity of the human person
- every staff member an opportunity to reflect on the relevance of Catholic Social Teaching in the modern world

9. Resourcing

Prayer and Liturgy are central to the College's understanding of itself as a Catholic institution, 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 College is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the estate. Dedicated spaces for Prayer and Liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical

season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the Prayer and Liturgical life of the school.

10. Evaluation

Evaluation takes place regularly through the Chaplaincy Team. Once a year the College's provision for worship will be formally evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of the students through the SAR/QIP quality assurance process.

11. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy reviews conducted by the Governors.