



ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

A Specialist School for Sensory Impairment and Other Needs

Policy Document Title:	Liturgy Policy 'Celebrating the Eucharist'
To be read in conjunction with:	Collective Worship Policy
Updated:	09/23 RB
To be reviewed:	09/24

Philosophy

This policy is linked to our statement policy on Collective Worship. It has been prepared in the form of a practical guide for use by all staff, priests and catechists. This policy is based on the Directory for Masses with Children, the General instruction on the Roman Catholic Missal, and the Lectionary.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Liturgical celebrations in our school contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each pupil. As we are a Roman Catholic school most of these will be Roman Catholic or Christian in nature but we also celebrate other world faiths in our daily morning reflections and our Monday and Friday whole-school assemblies.

Celebration

- All Masses celebrated, will be based upon the celebration of an event or, feast day.
- The theme will arise from the liturgical season (Church's year) or from the event being celebrated eg. Holy Communion, Confirmation or Retirement Mass.
- The calendar of the Church's year will always be consulted at the beginning of each academic year, and as a result major feasts will be celebrated.
- Pupils who are Roman Catholics have the opportunity to be taken to Mass, in the wider community, on Holy Days of Obligation, when school may struggle to secure the booking of a priest.
- There will be the celebration of other events that can be linked with the life of Christ. This will include the celebration of other world faiths based on Christ's Gospel command to ***'love one another just as I have loved you.'***

Preparation

- Liturgies will be prepared in advance and are written and sent to the participating Priest.
- Pupils and staff will be involved as much as possible.
- The priest will be invited to participate at an early stage.
- There is consultation with the music group regarding hymns for the celebration.
- Careful consideration will be given to the following dimensions of celebration: ***readings, bidding prayers, Penitential Rite, opening prayer, prayer over the gifts, post communion prayer, eucharistic prayer and music.***
- Pupils carrying the gifts to the altar will also practice the 'respectful way' in which they should be carried.

Order of Service

- The Chapel will be prepared for the celebration of the Eucharist by the Pastoral Group.
- An opening hymn is sung. Readings are selected with the celebration in mind. We are aware of the fact that Bible readings should never be totally replaced with secular ones. The Bidding prayers/ Prayers of the Faithful are introduced by the Priest and the intentions spoken by pupils or a member of staff.
- The Offertory is carried by a member of our community and a hymn is sung. The Priest will select a Eucharistic prayer and The Lord's Prayer may be said or sung.
- Communion takes place as usual. Children and staff who are not receiving may come for a blessing. Pupils are aware of the way in which they should accept a blessing. Music or singing will be played during Communion.
- The Priest reminds the congregation of the main points of the celebration. A closing hymn concludes the celebration.