

Holy Cross RC Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Signed _____ [Headteacher] Date November 2022

Signed _____ [Chair of Governors] Date November 2022

Next Review Date November 2024

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1. Mission Statement

'The Mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful.' (Pope Francis)

Our Ethos is:

God made us all unique

- To learn, live and grow
- To show good citizenship to all
- To be the best we can possibly be
- Showing Christ's love in all we do.

Our Core Values are:

- Here at Holy Cross we are a Catholic family rooted in Gospel values.
- Offering a safe, learning and nurturing environment within the community where all can grow.
- Leading the way in faith and prayer.
- "You are created in the image and likeness of God". We will celebrate your uniqueness, promoting inclusiveness and dignity.

- Celebrating cultural diversity and recognising religious diversity through...
- Respect, tolerance love, justice, compassion, kindness forgiveness, honesty, charity, encouraging happiness, peace and hope.
- Our curriculum will equip our children to grow and develop fully into the young adults of the future.
- Striving for continuous improvement, success and achievement for all.
- Strengthening our local, wider and global family through good citizenship.

3. Vision Statement

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, we live by the gospel value of treating others as you would like to be treated.

Our vision is to strive to:

- *Provide the best education possible for all children in a warm and caring environment that enables every child to reach their full potential;*
- *Enable children to become positive citizens, independent, resilient, tolerant and respectful of others, ready to play their part in the local community and wider society;*
- *Ensure that every child feels safe, happy and valued.*

At Holy Cross we put children at the heart of everything we do.

3. Inclusion

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally.

All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum, regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, religion and disability. Within this subject area, the School Leadership Team (SLT) and all the staff endeavor to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur. This policy follows the guidelines and practices that are stated and outlined in Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Equality Policy.

4. Equal Opportunities

We believe that all children should be able to experience a range of Prayer and Liturgy activities irrespective of age, race, gender, religion or ability.

5. Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the power

of the Holy Spirit.

6. Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups e.g. Foundation stage KS1, lower KS2, upper KS2. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Responsibility for arranging Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

7. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious 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
Those from other faith backgrounds, including none.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Prayer and Liturgy in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition of our school.

8. The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response

- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich a religious experience
- To build a firm foundation for liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes and values
- To participate fully in the Catholic life of the school.
- To take time out, to wonder at, to come to terms with and to give worth to
- To teach and guide children how to worship

Prayer and Liturgy is at the very heart of our school community and the nature of this worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

9. Principles

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church.

In order to enable this, celebrations will:

Be in small groups (where possible) to help to personalise the experience;

Be short and appropriately paced

Be simple and offer a range of experiences in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings. (See notes for assistance when planning Prayer and Liturgy)

10. Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

We hold a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy in our school. Depending on the age of the child these last between 10-15 minutes for KS1 and foundation stage and 15-20 minutes for KS2.

Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Fridays are whole school assemblies.

On Tuesdays Prayer and Liturgy is completed in class.

We regard Prayer and Liturgy as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. We encourage the children to be quiet and thoughtful. We also encourage them to listen, reflect and meditate upon the teachings and the signs and symbols which are used to

support their full participation in the prayers, readings, stories songs and hymns which they will hear. Children will be encouraged and guided to understand and acknowledge the purpose of gathering, listening and responding, and take forward the mission of the church.

We take the themes of our Prayer and Liturgy from the traditions of the Catholic faith and we reflect upon the liturgical calendar and feast days. Some Prayer and Liturgy reflects and builds upon the God Matters topics being currently studied. Parents are informed through the weekly newsletter on these topics and are encouraged to follow up and discuss at home with their children.

11. The planning, content and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, Ten Ten resources, God Matters units and Diocese child led prayers, significant dates and the curriculum. Staff are given details of the appropriate liturgical calendar and feast days etc. by the R.E. subject leader at the beginning of each year.
- There is flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop pupils' skills which enable them to prepare, organise and lead Prayer and Liturgy
- Children have opportunities to plan and have Prayer and Liturgy at an age-appropriate level. For example, through the pupil chaplaincy programme.

12. Recording

How Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

Class Prayer and Liturgy sessions are planned weekly through TenTen resources and Diocese child led prayers, and evaluated and monitored each term by the subject leader through class prayer area displays and in RE floorbooks. Pupils' can also contribute to KS1, KS2 and hall displays. Displays will include children's work, photographs, reflections and prayers.

13. Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate the school's provision of Prayer and Liturgy to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils and consider whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and ability in organising and leading Prayer and Liturgy.

14. Resources

We have a wide range of resources which are updated regularly and are available to all staff.

15. Mass

Masses are organised as whole school celebrations as appropriate. Class Masses are held each term: Upper key Stage 2, Lower Key Stage 2, KSI and Reception Classes.

Pupils can prepare for class and school mass celebrations. In the summer term Year 3 and Year 4 pupils celebrate several Mass in local parish churches as part of their sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion. Also Year 6 pupils celebrate a leavers mass in the final term as they prepare to leave Holy Cross Catholic Primary School.

The different sections of the Liturgy (Introductory Rites in the Mass, the Liturgy of the word, Eucharistic prayer, the Communion Rite) are reinforced with all children when preparing for class Masses. The four-fold presence of Christ in the Liturgy is constantly revisited.

16. The Lead Learner for Prayer and Liturgy

In our school the co-ordination of Prayer and Liturgy is the responsibility of Miss Emma Stroud, in consultation with the Head teacher, Decon Paul the available priest and the school Senior Leadership Team.

17. Policy Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the RE subject leader and is reviewed by the staff and governors periodically.

18. Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.