

Holy Cross Catholic Primary

One School Family, Achieving Together, Anchored in the Love of Christ.




Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Policy Review

This policy was adopted and agreed by the Governing Body on 23rd May 2024 and will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every year.

It is due for review in the Summer term 2025.

Signature  Headteacher Date: 23rd May 2024

Signature  Chair of Governors Date: 23rd May 2024

Revision Record

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved	Comments
1	23.05.2024	LB	FGB	Based on the 'Model prayer and liturgy policy provided by The Prayer & Liturgy Directory for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges in England and Wales' & CASO Portsmouth's 'Guidance on Preparing and Leading Worship in Our Schools' document.
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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

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Mission Statement

One School Family, Achieving Together, Anchored in the Love of Christ.

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), *Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- › Provide children with consistent periods of spiritual reflection both collectively and individually
- › Invite children to participate full, conscientiously and actively in the prayer life and worship at Holy Cross and their local parish churches
- › Support children to understand and experience Catholic practices and beliefs through prayer, liturgy and worship
- › Enrich their religious experience through consistent and vibrant prayer and worship sessions
- › Support children to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- › Promote the ethos and mission statement of our school and strengthen our shared values
- › Develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in God and His Creation in the world around them
- › Allow children to contemplate the mysteries of their faith and explore their own beliefs
- › Uphold the Catholic tradition of Mass, the Holy Sacraments and being part of the Holy Catholic Church

3. Responsibility

(a) Governance

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

- › Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory

- › There is a named person (Lucie Banks) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- › 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 school.

(b) Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- › Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- › They work in partnership with the leader for prayer and liturgy
- › Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school 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 school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- › Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school 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 school year which identified liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- › There is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- › Pupils 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 pupils
- › Induction of prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- › Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- › Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- › 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.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

At Holy Cross, prayer and liturgy is integral to developing the children's relationship with Christ. Prayer and liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life. At Holy Cross we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and liturgy, deepening pupils' sense of belonging to the faith community of our school, and to the wider Church.

In order to fulfil our aims of this policy at Holy Cross, we dedicate allocated time for both collective and separate acts of prayer and worship each day:

- Daily prayers are said at the start and end of each day, other prayers such as grace before meals are also said
- Every class will have a focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the Church's year
- Over the course of the week, a whole-school Gospel assembly, led by the Headteacher, takes place
- Class liturgies, delivered through TenTen Resources or planned by teachers, are delivered three times a week
- Hymn practice is celebrated during the week, to enrich prayer and liturgy

Mass and Celebrations of the Word Themes, held at school, St Thomas's and St David's. (Some dates/ gatherings dependent on school holidays and church/ priest availability).

Term	Themes
Autumn 1	Start of School Year – Mission Statement, Vision, Values and Charism Holy Cross Day (September) Harvest Almsgiving Preparation (end of September, beginning of October) Harvest (October)
Autumn 2	Remembrance Day (November) All Saints Day (November) East Cowes Town Square Carols (December) Churches Together Town Carol Service (December) Pre-Christmas (December)
Spring 1	Epiphany (January) Candlemas (February)
Spring 2	Walk the Wight Mountbatten Hospice (February) Maundy Thursday Mass (March)
Summer 1	Ascension Day Celebration of the Word (May) Crowning of Mary, Celebration and Procession to statue for crowning (May) Pentecost (May)
Summer 2	Nativity of John the Baptist (June) Island Mass – IoW Catholic Schools (July) End of term Mass (July)

5. Planning of prayer and liturgy

Staff and child-led liturgies in our school follows the pattern of:

Gather

- There should be a sense of order and calm on entering
- Music may be used to set the atmosphere

- › There should be a clear and appropriate focal point
- › There should be different arrangements for different times of the liturgical year

Listen (Scripture)

'Hear God's word that lifts us up, instructs us, corrects us, trains us in holiness' (2 Tim 3:16-17)

- › Share scripture, making sure it's the appropriate text, length and version for the children participating
- › Consider how it will be shared – read, through pictures, through film, through objects?
- › There will be a use of the formal responses
- › The aim is to remind us of God's loving kindness which surrounds us and continually leads us to God, that guides us in our actions

Reflect (Explanation and quiet time)

- › The explanation should be brief and reinforce the key message of the scripture
- › It should, where possible, relate to the children's own experiences
- › It should respect the age and development of the children
- › The reflection should contribute to children's living and understanding of the Christian way of life
- › There should be an opportunity for those participating to reflect on the message of the scripture and how that message will help them be better Christians
- › Children may benefit from a physical object to hold or look at as an aid to concentration

Response (Including prayer)

- › Encourage a high level of participation
- › Ensure children know how to respond and behave
- › Provide an invitation for children to respond to – giving praise and thanks, saying sorry, acknowledging the needs of others, thinking of our own needs last

Going Forward

- › Give a clear message/ task to take away, ideally linked to the living out of the message of the scripture in children's everyday lives
- › This should be an integration of worship and life
- › There should be a clear sense of order and purpose on leaving.
- › Music may be used to set the tone
- › Where possible, revisit the message later in the day or next time you come together for worship and encourage the children to reflect on how they lived out the message

6. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, 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 school is reflected in religious artefacts

and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season.

7. Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

9. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1988, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71 (1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, S.71 (1B)). The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.