

# Holy Cross Catholic Primary School



## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

July 2024

*We care, we share, we value.*

**Date Agreed** July 2024

**To be reviewed on or before** July 2026

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Headteacher**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair of Governors**

As a Catholic school community we believe that we all, governors, staff, parents and students, are - Created in the image of God, Redeemed by Jesus and Empowered by the Holy Spirit. Consequently, we are all worthy of dignity and respect.

As educators we are committed to working with parents in raising the children in our care “to know that they are loved” (St John Bosco, Patron Saint of Youth), valuing themselves and others, and open to be of service to whoever is in need. We will develop their talents within a context of praise, support, affirmation and celebration by presenting ourselves as “ministers of God’s love”, models for imitation and as elder sisters and brothers to each of our children.

All our school policies are to be understood within these convictions.

*'Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise. Come let us bow down and worship him'*  
(Psalm 95: 1-3, 6)

### [Introduction to Prayer and liturgy \(Collective Worship\) here at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School](#)

Here at Holy Cross, school prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are central to the life of our school and our catholic nature. These allow our pupils and staff to come together to worship God. Whilst we respect the diversity of belief in the world and are committed to the teaching of other faiths; we are dedicated to creating a school which is Christ-centred in character. We encourage the children to experience worship and liturgical celebrations in a relevant and meaningful manner. Our Prayer and liturgy takes account the religious and educational needs of all who share it.

### [Mission Statement](#)

Our Mission Statement places this aim at the centre of all we hope to achieve...

*Together with Jesus as our role model,  
we are a happy, nurturing, welcoming community.*

*All are dedicated to supporting,  
valuing and encouraging each other.*

*We love one another as Jesus taught us.*

## *We Care, We Share, We Value*

We are dedicated to ensuring that our pupils and staff being are able to be fully immersed in a Christ-Centred community and this means allowing them opportunities to develop and deepen their own relationships with God through daily acts of prayer and worship.

### [Legal requirements](#)

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we believe that it is much more than a legal requirement, it is central to the life of our school and is essential in developing the spiritual development. Where parents request it, pupils may be withdrawn from the Prayer and liturgy and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

## Our aims and objectives for Prayer and liturgy

Through our prayer and liturgy, we aim to:

- Ensure that each day all pupils and staff have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection which is in line with our shared Catholic faith and Gospel values.
- Allow our pupils to develop and deepen their own relationships with God.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Allow our pupils the opportunity to reflect upon their own personal beliefs and to respond and celebrate life.
- To ensure that strong links are made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
- Ensure that our Prayer and liturgy will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
- That a strong moral, reflective and social ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.
- That opportunities will exist throughout the year whereby our worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
- That Prayer and liturgy will contribute to our school's community cohesion and will promote children's spiritual, social, intellectual and moral development. They will allow our children to develop qualities like tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

## 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(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator- Miss K. Chauveau)
- 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(s) 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 identifies 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 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 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.

### **Our strategies for Prayer and liturgy**

- On Mondays we have a whole school Gospel assembly. During the week, each key stage also has it's own assembly linked to Catholic virtues to live by.
- Worship also takes place in classrooms three times a week, led by staff and learners.
- Pupils will have an opportunity say prayers at the start and end of each day and before meals.
- Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.

- Pupils will be given opportunities to participate in worship and we aim to increase independence, dependent upon age development.
- On at least one occasion during the year, the parents from each class will be invited to participate in collective worship.
- Occasionally, visitors and guests will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.
- On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious and other festivals such as Christmas and Easter, in line with our Catholic faith.
- Holy Cross staff and governors will liaise with Liverpool Archdiocese to keep up to date with training needs and Ecumenical matters.

### Planning and content

Theme based guidance centred around Come and See, RED topics and the liturgical calendar is provided to all teachers to aid with planning. The R.E. team also makes judgements as to whether other worships may be necessary to acknowledge local, national and world events. Guidance provided by the Archdiocese of Liverpool is used to effectively plan Prayer and liturgy.

This involves:

**Preparation:** When, where, who, what? How will the classroom be prepared? What resources will be needed?

**Gather:** How will the children gather? Where will the worship take place? Will there be music? How will the children settle and show that they are ready?

**Listen:** What scripture will be used? How does this scripture link to the theme? How will the scripture be displayed for the children to see and share together? Is time given for the children to silently reflect?

**Respond:** What will the children do? Will they share a prayer? Reflect? Sing a hymn? Perform some symbolic action?

**Go Forth:** What will the children's mission be to go away with following the word of God?

### Outcomes of Prayer and liturgy

The children of Holy Cross will be offered excellent opportunities to experience, enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities. Through Prayer and liturgy, learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder. Each day the spiritual aim of our mission statement will be delivered through Prayer and liturgy so that the children experience first-hand Successful learning within a Christ-Centred Community.

### Recording, evaluation, and monitoring

Staff will record their planning for Prayer and liturgy on the planners provided. The R.E. team will monitor these. Prayer and liturgy will be recorded through displays, digital recordings and photographs. Both staff and pupils will evaluate it on a regular basis. The RE lead will observe examples of Prayer and liturgy each term to celebrate areas of success and to offer any areas of development if needed. Peer observations are also actively encouraged especially for newer members of staff.

### Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by SLT, RE Lead and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.