



The Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Our Mission Statement

'Love Jesus, love learning, love each other'

We believe that every child is a unique creation of God. Within a happy, inclusive and secure environment, following Gospel Values, we will work together to inspire and nurture every child.

We will strive to instil a lifelong love of God, of learning and of each other and an aspiration towards high personal achievement.

Policy Title	Prayer & Liturgy Policy		
Last Review date	Sept 2026	Next Review Date	Sept 2028
Responsibility	HEADTEACHER & RE SUBJECT LEADER		
Date Approved	SEPT 2022		
Change history			

Statutory Requirements

The law requires all maintained schools and academies:

- Provide daily Prayer and Liturgy for all pupils (Section 70, 1988 Education Act);
- That Acts of Prayer and Liturgy are not to be 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;
- Recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their pupils from Prayer and Liturgy.

In addition: Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools and Governors in Catholic academies give a written commitment to do the same.

Parents are permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of Prayer and Liturgy. This request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Statement of Intent

'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.' (Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005)

Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our schools are shaped and sustained. This policy is informed and influenced by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales 'Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To Love You More Dearly'.

Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, must be intrinsically woven into the fabric of a school's Catholic identity. It is therefore expected that all schools will have a schedule of liturgical events which will include planned for participation in Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies such as Adoration, and the opportunity for its members to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Aims and Objectives - Acts of Worship in Holy Family:

- Give praise and honour to God;
- Give pupils meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church
- Give pupils and students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- Are of high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Are examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Holy Family

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 the church.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.

- Those from other Christian traditions – or none and those from other faith backgrounds.
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute.

Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

The ultimate aim of Prayer and Liturgy in Holy Family School is to provide the space and tools for our young people, within the context of the Catholic faith and traditions:

- To contemplate the mystery of God;
- To develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To foster and nurture relationships;
- To respond to and to celebrate life;
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- To nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;
- To enrich religious experience;
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- To seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Content

The following areas provide suitable materials for Acts of Worship:

- Liturgical events/church calendar.
- Special events such as church sacraments.
- Charitable events.
- Gospel Values and Holy Family Values: Love, Humility, Respect, Forgiveness, Peace and Honesty & Justice
- Themes such as tolerance and respect for others.
- Catholic Social Teaching

Opportunities for prayer should be made in all Acts of Worship. When these don't take place, a time is set aside for prayers in the classroom. This is particularly applicable to the Foundation stage where the pupils may only attend one or two Acts of Worship a week when they first begin school.

Music and Song

In music, we recognise that there is rich variety to be enjoyed. The social and cultural mix of the pupils at Holy Family has to be recognised and their needs met. It is important that no cultural group is made to feel excluded from worship.

Organisation and Leadership

The Local Governance Committee members and Head Teacher are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for whole school, class and key stage group Worship. The school must ensure:

- That there is a named person who is responsible for organising Prayer and Liturgy across the school;
- That Prayer and Liturgy, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily;
- That all pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day;
- that Prayer and Liturgy is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued

professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead;

- That there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Prayer and Liturgy which clearly demonstrates the impact it has on the school's Catholic mission.