

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Prayer & Liturgy Policy

Member of Staff Responsible for this Policy:
E Allonby

Date of last Review: October 2024

Mission Statement

Holy Family School aims to develop our children's all round potential in a happy, secure and disciplined environment. To achieve this, we are committed to a partnership of parents, carers, staff, governors and the parish. Our school is founded on faith in Jesus Christ and His teachings and we accept the guidance of the Catholic Church in establishing that foundation.

In all things, love.



The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 witness of the Holy Spirit. ¹

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil 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. As a rule, Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises. However, the Governing Body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, church grounds.

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 – or none
- those from other faith backgrounds.

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

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

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 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 religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes

² Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

- to participate fully
- to take time out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All Prayer and Liturgy in this school will aim to:

- raise our mind and heart to God
- celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community
- be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- support learners' spiritual development
- give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings;
 - seek to involve learners at all times in preparation and leadership.

Organisation

Monday	All children in hall - worship prepared by Y6 children based on the Wednesday Word.
Tuesday	In class prepared by pupils (KS2) or adult.
Wednesday	Class based prayer. Whole school lead by classes on a rota basis. Parents and families invited.
Thursday	2:30 pm Class mass for each year group on a rota basis. Class to plan. Father David to preside, children to read two readings and bidding prayers.
Friday	Whole school celebration assembly.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following the Prayer and Liturgy directory 'To love You more dearly', which follows a structure with reference to the church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum with an emphasis on scripture as the focus
- in consultation with appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies

- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in learners skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship, rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Trained Liturgy leaders from Year five and Year six help plan and prepare liturgies which they then deliver to Reception and Year One.

Recording

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on our school drive to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings (Year 5 and 6)
- through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Bibles and age appropriate Gospels are housed in the library on a separate display shelf and in the Middle Room. There is also a section for religious reading materials in the library that can be used by both class teachers and the children. There is also a Library Worship area open for spontaneous prayer and reflection.

Each KS2 class has been given their own set of Bibles which is kept in class. Prayer books and other collective worship related materials are kept in classrooms to be accessed when needed. Each classroom has a cross and an area as a focus for Prayer and Liturgy.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school highlight a special occasion such as the start of and end of each school year, Leavers Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Weekly class masses with Father David, our school Chaplain take place in school and always reflect Gospel themes or class needs. The same general principles apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for learners to participate will be maximised. We believe that learners are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

In school, therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

School joins with the Catholic family of schools during Advent and Lent for shared worship.

As well as the continuous areas of worship, from time to time, other areas in school will be prepared to illustrate events; e.g. Crib/Jesse Tree at Christmas or Stations of the Cross.

Appendix 1 KS1 and KS2 Prayers

Prayers at Holy Family Catholic Primary School EYFS/KS1

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Grace before Meals

Thank you God
Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you God for everything

Morning Offering

Father in Heaven,
I give you today,
All that I think and do and say.
All my work and happy play,
I will give to you today.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners.
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Home Time Prayers

Hands together softly so,
Little eyes shut tight,
Father just before we go
Hear our prayers tonight
We are all God's children here
This is what we pray
Keep us when the dark is near
And through every day. Amen

Prayers at Holy Family Catholic Primary School KS2

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Morning Offering

Father in Heaven,
I give you today,
All that I think and do and say.
All my work and happy play,
I will give to you today.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Grace before Meals

Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts,
Which we are about to receive,
From thy bounty, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners.
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Home Time Prayer

God Our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today,
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give to me,
Guard me in the dark of night,
And in the morning send your light.
Amen

Other formal prayers used in school:

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be.
World without end.
Amen

The Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy;
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of
Eve;
To you do we send up our sighs, mourning
and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, your
eyes of mercy towards us;
And after this our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Act of Contrition

O my God
Because you are so good
I am very sorry that I have sinned against
you
and by the help of your grace I will not sin
again.
Amen

The Memorare

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary
That it is a thing unheard of,
that anyone ever had recourse to your
protection,
implored your help, or sought your
intercession, and was left forsaken.
Filled therefore with this confidence in your
goodness, I fly to you,
O Mother, Virgin of virgins.
To you do I come, before you I stand, a
sorrowful sinner.
Despise not my poor words, O Mother of
the Word of God,
But graciously hear and grant my prayer.
Amen