



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Agreed by Governing Board on 23 November 2023
Policy will be reviewed by September 2024

Mission Statement

*With Christ at the centre, we love one another and always try our best.
We learn together and look after each other by showing respect.
We understand that we are all unique and precious in God's eyes*

School motto

We follow Jesus' footsteps

The nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian Prayer and Liturgy within a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is an essential part of our distinctive ethos; a way of giving glory to God and deepening our relationship with Him through prayer, reflection, praise and rejoicing. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Prayer and Liturgy offered for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day.

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

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Prayer and Liturgy. However, given the importance of Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will 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.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School – school life

Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of our school life and central to our Catholic tradition.

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Prayer and Liturgy aims and opportunities for all pupils and staff:

To contemplate the mystery of God

To reflect on spiritual and moral issues

To explore personal beliefs

To respond to and celebrate life

To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit

To develop a common ethos and shared values

To enrich religious experience

To grow in liturgical understanding and development

To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition

To reinforce positive attitudes

To participate fully

Principles for Prayer and Liturgy at Holy Family Catholic Primary School

We will:

Give glory and honour to God

Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship

Give pupils 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 do this, celebrations will:

Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience

Be short and appropriately paced

Be simple but will include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and a variety of settings.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates eg. Cafod Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and Parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

| Day | Content | Venue | Age group | Led by |
|-----------|---|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday | Following scripture, key liturgical dates and feast days | Hall | Whole school | Mrs Westray/Mrs Morrison |
| Tuesday | Autumn – Parables Spring – Miracles Summer – Catholic Social Teaching | Classrooms | All classes | Teacher/pupils |
| Wednesday | Wednesday Word | Hall | Whole school | Teachers |
| Thursday | Hymns based on time of year/feast day | Hall | Whole school | Mrs McDonnell and Mr Heron |
| Friday | Celebration assembly including scripture reading and reflection | Hall | Whole school and parents | Mrs Westray |

Planning

Gather – We think about how we come together, the environment and a focal point.

Listen – We hear a reading from the scriptures, have time to reflect and say a prayer to match the theme.

Respond – We think about how we will respond to the word of God.

Send– We give the children something to take away from their liturgical experience that they can act on in their lives and/or share with others.

Monitoring and evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring schedule, Prayer and Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils, whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities to organise and lead Prayer and Liturgy and whether it truly reflects the aims, ethos and mission of the School. This will be monitored through observation and pupil interviews. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform our Catholic Self Evaluation Document.

Resources

Each class has a box of Religious artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the Liturgical year including resources to support child-led Prayer and Liturgy and age-appropriate Bibles and Prayer books. Other resources are available in our worship cupboard.

Our environment

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will also reference Curriculum RE topics. They will be an outward sign of the school's ethos and mission.

Eucharist

Children attend Mass at least once every half term, on feast days and at key times during the year.

Children in year 4 are given the opportunity to participate in the preparation and the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Expectations for Prayer and Liturgy

Jesus Christ is central to all aspects of school life and all pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church.

Every class will have a prayer table – this will be treated with reverence, be liturgically correct and follow the Church's year.

Daily prayers said at the start and end of each day, as well as praying grace before lunch.

Our whole school Gospel assembly on Mondays will focus on Sunday's Gospel.

Hymn practice is celebrated each week to enrich Prayer and Liturgy.

Class liturgies will have a specific theme according to the Liturgical season.