Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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Our Mission Statement

At Holy Cross, we are very proud of our school motto and our Catholic ethos; **Loved, Valued, Challenged**.

Loved: We love one another as Jesus taught us – our friends, our families and those who we may never meet.

Valued: We value everyone – everyone is important; pupils, staff, parents, governors, and members of the community– no matter their race, religion ability or need. We try to live like Jesus taught us.

Challenged: We challenge each other – not only with our learning but challenge each other to be more merciful to others, have a little more understanding of others' needs and challenge each other to be better people.

Our Vision

At Holy Cross, we aim to develop a caring Catholic community based upon the life and example of Jesus Christ, which envelopes the life and lives of everyone and everything in our school. It is through Christ's message of love and forgiveness that the children, staff, both teachers and ancillary, parents and governors, preserve the essential Catholic ethos of the school.

The school aims to provide a challenging curriculum that reflects our philosophy, broadly balanced and relevant, and to support the development of the whole child to his/her full potential. At Holy Cross, everybody matters, therefore we encourage all to show respect to each other and the environment.

Intent

This policy outlines the purpose and management of prayer and liturgy at Holy Cross Primary. Prayer and Liturgy is an integral and vital part of the daily life of our school. High quality prayer and liturgy encourages all stakeholders in our school to always remember that our purpose is to move forward together, loving, valuing, and challenging ourselves and each other as Jesus taught us.

As Catholic Christians, we are guided by the values of the Gospel and the beliefs of our own faith tradition. At the same time, we are respectful of the beliefs of others. We celebrate achievement in all aspects of school and home life – everyone is unique and a child of God. The policy is to be read alongside the Religious Education Policy.

How Prayer and Liturgy is organised in our school

We have a daily act of prayer and liturgy, either as a whole school, Key Stage, or year group. Classes take it in turns to plan and deliver Key Stage acts of prayer and liturgy each week. In upper Key Stage 2, the children plan and deliver acts of prayer and liturgy independently, with limited adult support. Eucharistic celebrations in school take place as often as the current climate of Covid allows.

In usual times, the aspiration is termly and is highlighted as a special occasion or reflection the season of the Liturgical year. These Masses are a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. Mass is (in usual times) celebrated in school and Church.

The school staff and children prepare the music, prayers, and readings for these celebrations. Prayer and liturgy is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children are taught that prayer and liturgy is a period of calm reflection and praise. It is promoted as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.

We encourage the children to be quiet and thoughtful and encourage them to listen, reflect and mediate upon the teachings and the signs and symbols which are used to encourage their full participation in the prayers, readings, stories songs and hymns which they will hear. Children will be encouraged and guided to understand and acknowledge the purpose of gathering, listening, and responding, and take forward the mission of the church.

The themes of our prayer and liturgy are taken from the traditions of the catholic faith, the seasons of the church and the Caritas in Action document; we acknowledge and reflect upon the liturgical calendar and feast days. Some prayer and liturgy reflect and builds upon the 'Come and See' scheme of work.

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The 'Come and See' scheme of work guidelines, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than participating in a token way.

The structure and nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the children should plan and conduct the prayer and liturgy with minimal teacher input. Prayer and Liturgy takes the structure:

- Gather
- Word
- Respond
- Mission

Implementation

Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

In EYFS and KS1 children are encouraged to play a part in the planning, preparation, and celebration of Acts of worship. Year on year, children are encouraged to take on more responsibility. By the end of KS1, children should be able to name all parts of an act of worship and work in small groups to plan each section with some adult prompting and support. They will access a range of scripture which will be built on each year.

Key Stage 2

Building on previous years, children will be able to more independently plan, prepare and carry our Acts of worship. By the end of KS2, this should be with only minimal adult supervision. Children will be able to appropriately choose scripture, name a range of ways to gather, know how to respond to the scripture and name a variety of ways of taking the learning forward to share with others by creating a range of appropriate 'missions'.

Parents and Carers

Parents are informed through the termly newsletter on the topic of prayer and liturgy and are encouraged to follow up and have discussions at home with their children. Whenever possible, parents are warmly invited to join us in our celebrations.

Monitoring

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This monitoring will take the form of observation, staff and pupil interview, utilisation of the digital monitoring tool and monitoring of the evidence scrap books held in each class. This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors.

Priorities

- To unify how prayer and liturgy looks across school, including the incorporation of the seven themes from the Caritas in Action document:
  - The dignity of the human person
  - Family and community
  - Solidarity and the common good
  - Dignity of work
  - Rights and responsibilities
  - Option for the poor and vulnerable
  - Stewardship
- To increase parish and parental involvement
- To formalise the evaluation of prayer and liturgy

Ideas for Families to Develop their Child's Spirituality

- Complete the RE topic homework together at the beginning of each new topic
- Regularly share a section of the RE knowledge organiser which is sent home at the beginning of each new RE topic
- Create a prayer area at home
- Share bible stories together
- Write prayers or prayer requests at home to be sent into school
- Ask your child to explain to you what they have been learning in RE
- Ask your child about the daily collective worship and what thew mission is
- Join us at mass at school or at church at the weekend