

Holy Cross and All Saints RC Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Approved by:	(Chair of Governors)
Headteacher:	
Last reviewed on:	
Date of next review:	

Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life.

Contents

1. Introduction to Prayer and Liturgy at Holy Cross
2. Legal Requirements
3. Responsibility
4. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School and Community
5. Resourcing
6. Training and Formation
7. Monitoring and Evaluation
8. Review

1. Introduction

At Holy Cross and All Saints RC Primary School, our motto *Love Jesus, love learning, love life*— shapes every aspect of school life. As a Catholic primary school, prayer and liturgy are not simply elements of our timetable; they are at the heart of everything we do. Rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, our school community is one where faith is lived daily, worship is joyfully expressed, and spiritual development is nurtured alongside academic and personal growth.

We believe that every child is a unique and precious gift from God, called to flourish and reach their full potential as fulfilled individuals in Christ. Through prayer, worship, and reflection, we aim to deepen our pupils' relationship with God, build a strong sense of belonging within our faith community, and inspire them to live lives of love, service, and hope.

While Christ remains firmly at the centre of our identity and mission, we are a welcoming and respectful community that honours the beliefs of others. We seek to create an environment where all feel valued and where every child is encouraged to grow spiritually, morally, and intellectually in the light of the Gospel.

This policy outlines how prayer and liturgy are woven into the fabric of daily life at Holy Cross and All Saints, supporting our children on their journey of faith and helping them become the people God calls them to be.

Mission Statement

We are of the Gospel, educating all children in order for them to grow and reach their full potential as fulfilled people in Christ.

As stated in our mission statement, as a Catholic primary school we strive to live out the message of the Gospel in all that we do. We are of the Gospel—centred on Christ’s teachings and example—committed to nurturing each child in mind, body, and spirit. Through a rich, faith-filled education, we aim to help every child grow in love, wisdom, and confidence, so they may reach their full potential as fulfilled and compassionate people in Christ, ready to serve others and make a positive difference in the world.

Our School Motto

Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life.

Building on our Gospel mission, our school motto —*Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life*— is a phrase that is lived and loved by our whole school community, especially the children. This motto helps our pupils to connect their faith with everyday life in a way that is meaningful and memorable. *Love Jesus* reminds us to keep Christ at the centre of all we do, *Love Learning* encourages a joy for discovery and personal growth, and *Love Life* inspires gratitude, wonder, and a positive outlook rooted in God’s love. It reflects the way we strive to educate the whole child, guiding them to grow as confident, caring, and fulfilled individuals in Christ.

Aims

We aim to:

- To develop an awareness and understanding of the presence of God in each individual child’s life and to encourage a personal response to that presence
- To allow each child to develop their conscience and make sound moral judgements based on commitment to following Christ
- To offer opportunities to deepen their faith and foster attitudes of care and respect for each other
- To live, experience and understand the Liturgical life of the Church through the Liturgical Year together with Solemnities and Feast days
- To foster school-parish links to ensure that our children remain exposed and committed to the Catholic faith experiencing liturgy and worship beyond and realms of the school curriculum

- To enable each child to participate and respond to liturgy and worship in an appropriate way to their age and maturity

2. Legal Requirements

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

The law requires all schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar. Prayer and liturgy are not 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.

3. Responsibility

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)
- 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.

Headteacher

The headteacher, Annemarie Bell, 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.

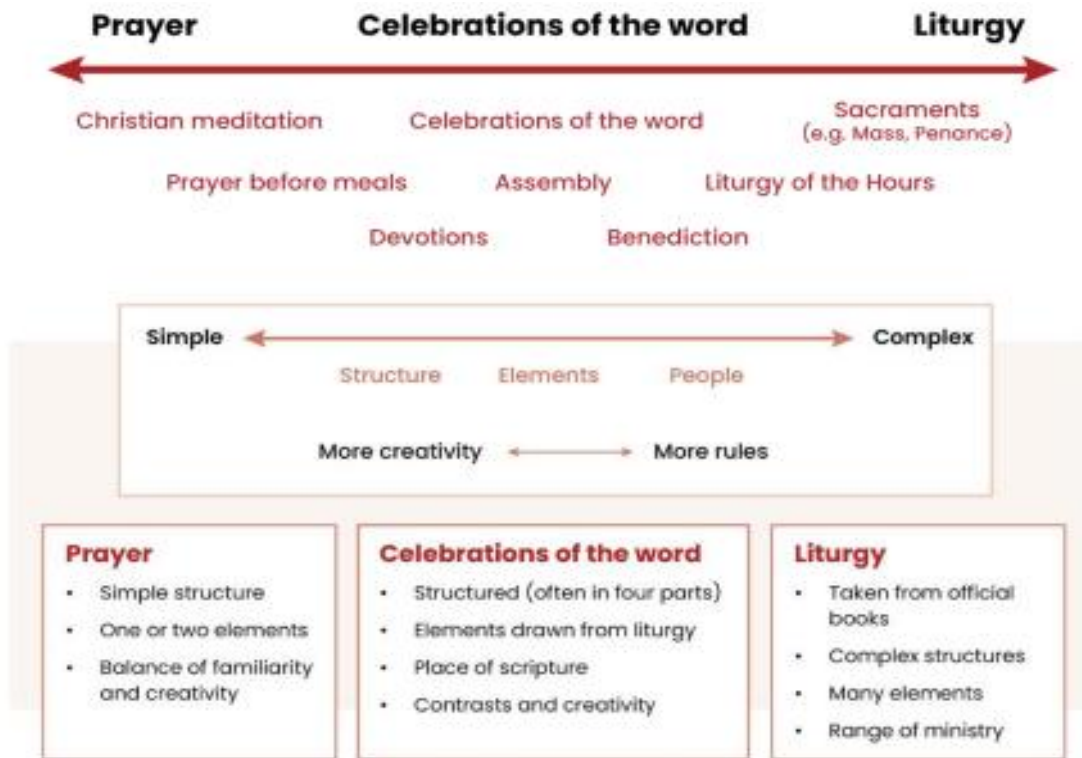
Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator






Those responsible for prayer and liturgy, Claire O'Shaughnessy, 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
- 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 Model prayer and liturgy policy 71 9.4
- 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.

4. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School and Community

Prayer, celebrations of the word, and liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other.



	Engagement	Participation	Ministry
 Who?	Everybody – including members of other religious traditions and people of good will	<i>Those who have been baptised (of any denomination)</i>	<i>Member of those who have been baptised (of any denomination)</i>
 Gather	To be present – to become alert to what is going in their lives and the world	To recognise one's membership of body of Christ	To welcome, to articulate the context and to set the atmosphere
 Word	To experience – to engage with what is happening through the senses	To listen to God's speaking in his Word	To proclaim the Word, communicating effectively and appropriately
 Response	To reflect – to ask what has been experienced and what it means to their lives	To offer praise, thanksgiving and petition to God through Christ.	To provide a focus for the response and to enable an appropriate response
 Send	To respond – to ask how to take forward into living a good life	To live out one's baptismal calling.	To draw together the celebration and to offer a bridge to life in practice.

At Holy Cross and All Saints, children are introduced to the below prayers. Learning these prayers includes teaching children the meaning, as well as how to pray them. Key Stage Two children have a class prayer book that is kept in their tray and can be used to support prayer daily.

EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Silence The Sign of the Cross School prayers	Silence The Sign of the Cross School prayers The Lord's Prayer Hail Mary Glory be Grace before meals Grace after meals	The Apostles' Creed An Act of Contrition Angel of God Come, Holy Spirit The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	Morning Offering The Rosary The Magnificat Act of Faith Act of Hope Act of Love

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy:

Frequency of different models of prayer



Daily patterns of prayer are embedded in the timetable. The range of prayer and liturgy engages all pupils with the richness of the Catholic liturgical tradition.

Morning Prayer (Terce)	Prayed in class at the start of a day
Grace Before Meals	Prayed in class before meals
Grace After Meals	Prayed in class after meals
Home time prayer (Examen)	Prayed in class before end of the day

An Act of Collective Worship, appropriate for the liturgical season, takes place each day and can be celebrated as a whole school, key stage or class. Collective Worship throughout the week is usually organised as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Monday Mission Assembly based on Gospel	Class based prayer service Christian Meditation Staff prayer	Class based – staff led	Class based – pupil lead Mass	Praise and Sing Assembly including Saints’ Prayer

During weeks in which there is a Holy Day of Obligation, Mass days are rearranged accordingly and all children celebrate these Masses.





Weekly/ Termly Acts of Prayer and Liturgy

Alongside this weekly cycle there are also termly Acts of Prayer and liturgy. All members of the community are invited to attend:

- Service of Welcome for Reception and Year Six
- Mass for the Feast of the Holy Cross
- Prayer Stations for Advent, Lent and our Jubilee Year
- Stay and Prays throughout the year on Fridays
- Class Liturgies
- Weekly Rosary session throughout October
- Service of Remembrance
- All Saints’ Day Celebration
- Advent Service
- EYFS and KS1 Nativities
- Carol Service and Christmas reflection
- Ash Wednesday – Lenten Service
- Holy Week and Stations of the Cross Service
- Passion Production
- May Procession
- Pentecost Mass
- End of Year Mass
- Liturgy of the Mass – on a timetabled basis on Thursdays throughout the year
- Opportunities to engage in ministry – School Singing Programme and related activities

Planning for Collective Worship

Elements of Collective Worship, which must be used when planning are:

<p>GATHER</p>  <p>Bringing everyone into the holy space (for example by playing music, sitting in a different way/space, lighting candles)</p>	<p>LISTEN</p>  <p>Sharing scripture to proclaim God's word (for example by listening to scripture set to music, reading scripture, scripture through actions)</p>
<p>RESPOND</p>  <p>Responding to God's word through prayer, action or song (for examples, see Birmingham Diocesan Education Service's [BDES] 'Practical Prayer Ideas for the Classroom')</p>	<p>GO FORTH</p>  <p>Sharing the message of the scripture for people to think about and act upon</p>

In worship, pupils experience:

- The importance of shared ritual
- Symbol – understanding the role and importance of symbols
- Silence and attentiveness
- Movement, posture and gesture
- Music and singing

Classroom expectations:

There should be a sacred space (prayer area) in every room. This should be placed in a prominent position and reflect the current liturgical season. Sacred spaces should be clutter-free and be set up in a manner which inspires prayer. All sacred spaces should contain a candle, Bible and Cross.

During liturgy (acts of Collective Worship), a prayer focal point should be created. For example, use of the Altar Table in the hall, appropriately dressed; or using the additional wooden tables in the classroom.

Pupils should develop the skills necessary to plan and lead collective worship with growing independence across the phases. This journey of progression is explicitly mapped out for our staff and pupils in our Annual Plan of Provision.

Staff are expected to model high-quality prayerful acts of Collective Worship and then support and facilitate opportunities for pupils to plan and lead their own.

Mass

Mass is central to practice of the faith. At Mass, the Last Supper is remembered but also recreated. Bread and wine are transformed into the body & blood of Jesus. This belief (transubstantiation) is what distinguishes us from many other Christians. This sacrament is above all others because as members of the Church “we receive the Body of Christ and are increasingly being transformed into the Body of Christ”. Mass takes place regularly in the school hall or church and is prepared and led by a class, a school group or staff. The Mass must be prepared in advance and shared with the Parish Priest so any amendments can be made.

Engagement with the parish and with families:

Holy Cross school places a strong emphasis on its partnership with families and the parish to support the developing prayer life and liturgical formation of pupils. We encourage prayer at home so that faith can continue to grow beyond the classroom, helping children and families to strengthen their relationship with God and to make prayer a natural and meaningful part of daily life. We commit to working with those families of other faiths and none to inform the prayer and liturgy offered in order that parents and families feel that their own beliefs are respected. We work closely with the parish community to facilitate the participation of pupils in the wider life of the Church. All parents, parishioners and governors have an open invitation to our Masses. We also invite our school community, including parishioners, to special services, such as our Rosary sessions and May Procession.

Ways in which we develop our relationship with our families include:

Prayer Bags

Throughout the year, Prayer bags are sent home to support families in sharing moments of prayer together, helping to extend the prayer life of the school into the home and encouraging children to lead simple, meaningful acts of worship with their loved ones.

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Date</u>
Weekly	EYFS and KS1 Prayer Bears
September	Jubilee Prayer Bags
October	Rosary Bags
December	Advent Prayer Bags (Travelling Crib)
March	Lent Prayer Bags

Growing in Faith Together Newsletter

Our termly newsletter, 'Growing in Faith Together' is sent home to keep families informed and involved in the prayer life of our school, celebrating the ways we worship together and sharing opportunities for prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth within our faith community.

Monday Mission

Every Monday, our Monday mission newsletter is shared with all families which summarises our Monday's Collective Worship and shares the children's weekly mission with families.

Stay and Pray

Families are invited in throughout the year to participate in 'Stay and Pray' sessions.

5. Resourcing:

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school

6. Training and formation.

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

8. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.