

# Holy Cross Catholic Primary School



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy document has been reviewed in October 2024  
Signature of the Chair

To be reviewed in October 2025

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

### **In the Light of Jesus we Love, Listen and Grow**

We share our love of God and our Catholic faith  
In the way we pray, work, and play each day  
Within a caring, supportive environment  
Which respects the diversity of the world around us.

We recognise the responsibilities we have  
towards each other  
within our families and global communities.

We inspire each other to do our best  
To reach our full potential,  
To become independent thinkers with enquiring minds,  
able to rise to the challenges of life.

**Holy Cross is a place  
Where feelings can be heard  
Where we learn and grow  
And are valued as a unique creation.**

Collective Worship at Holy Cross is very much underpinned by our school mission statement and motto. We believe that Collective worship in our Catholic School celebrates the presence of Christ in our lives. The spiritual development of our children is nurtured through the Gospel values of compassion, kindness, justice, forgiveness, peace and courage.

## **THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in work 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.

## **THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. However, worship at Holy Cross is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all gain at a level of faith background appropriate to them.

Collective Worship at Holy Cross 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 which school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian backgrounds.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.
- Those from other backgrounds who are admitted to the school under the categories agreed by the Governing Body as the admission authority.

## **THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that Collective Worship 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;
- to participate fully;
- to take time out *'to wonder at'* *'to come to terms with'* and *'to give worth to'*.

## **PRINCIPLES**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- give Glory and honour to God;
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 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 in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than; always participating or contributing to something prepared for them.

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy timetable to assist staff with planning, by informing them of themes and leaders;
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and class liturgy planners where appropriate.

## **RESOURCES**

- Resources supporting the planning of liturgies, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic.
- Set liturgies for feast days (on Diocesan website).
- Bibles
- Prayer books
- Music
- Pictures and artefacts
- Candles and drapes
- Let us Pray together resource (each class has their own)
- Chaplain

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it fulfils the aims of our policy in an updated and appropriate manner.

The Role of the Co-ordinator is to:

- plan and present an overview of Liturgy for the year;
- support colleagues in the implementation of the Collective Worship Policy;

- monitor progress and respond to areas identified as 'could be better if...'
- take responsibility for the purchase of central resources for liturgies;
- keep up to date with developments in liturgy and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.

## **PARISH & FAMILY CELEBRATIONS**

On these occasions of collective worship the children, or groups of children, play an active role offering and sharing their celebration with the parish family or their own families. They include:

- Beginning and End of Term Masses.
- Masses for Holy days.
- The Feast of the Holy Cross
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Stations of the Cross / Lenten Liturgy
- Preparation for, and celebration of, the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Christmas Carol Service
- Telling of the Christmas Story
- Harvest Mass
- Reconciliation Services
- May Celebration for Mary the Mother of Jesus
- Holy Days of Obligation

## **CELEBRATION IN THE WIDER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

These occasions allow the children to become aware of the wider church community, furthering their sense of belonging to a universal church worshipping in communion.

Occasions include:

- Trust Celebrations
- Making a positive contribution through fundraising.

## **WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS**

In these we try to develop the children's sense of belonging to a caring, sharing school family who meet to praise God together.

Occasions include:

- Our Friday assembly celebrates the achievements of our pupils in academic areas but also in the wider life of the school, such as living out the school motto and living out the Gospel message of the week which is based on the Sunday Gospel.

Our assemblies may focus on:

- Feast Days of the Church e.g. St Peter and Paul
- Saying goodbye to leavers.
- Advent Assembly

- Crib Assembly
- Stations of the Cross.
- Devotions to our Lady
- Pentecost – Birthday of the Church
- The Rosary
- Reconciliation Assemblies.
- Cafod
- Themes linked to British values and protected characteristics centred around scripture and gospel values

## **KEYSTAGE CELEBRATIONS**

These allow the different ages of children to learn and pray together at a level appropriate to their development. They are an opportunity for children to be guided in reflection on issues and world events which go beyond our school family.

## **WEEKLY TIMETABLE**

Monday - whole school assembly led by the Head of School, explaining and reinforcing the weekend's Gospel message.

Tuesday- Class prayer time/Lectio Divina

Wednesday – Key Stage Liturgies based on protected characteristics and current news

Thursday – Class liturgies (teacher led, class led or chaplaincy team led)

Friday – Hymn practice and Achiever's assembly with a link to Monday's Gospel message.

## **INDIVIDUAL CLASS CELEBRATIONS**

The day begins and ends with prayer. This usually includes a morning and night prayer alongside the other forms appropriate to the occasion and the age of the children.

The children participate weekly in class liturgies and are planned and delivered in a variety of ways. These can be led by class teachers, the whole class may plan the liturgy or chaplains from year 5 and 6 will plan and lead some class liturgies under the guidance of the Collective Worship lead. Each class has a chaplaincy team to work with them.

## **EVALUATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We ask parents and the parish community to evaluate our acts of worship. We use these to celebrate what has worked well and also to reflect on how we can improve so that everyone has a spiritually fulfilling encounter with God.

Children are also encouraged to evaluate their liturgies and use these evaluations to develop their engagement and experience within their class liturgy.

## **POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The policy is monitored by the Executive Headteacher, Head of School and Collective Worship Lead.

It will be reviewed in October 2025