Holy Cross Catholic

Voluntary Academy

We live, grow, learn and pray together in faith, showing God's love in all we do and say.

Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic

Academy Trust

Liturgical Prayer Policy

Policy Revised:	October 2022		
Last Review:		**Next Review:**	September 2025
Headteacher:			
Chair of Governors:			

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
Matthew 18:20

The principles underpinning the spiritual development of our children are based on the Gospel Values of justice, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. Children learn to encounter and appreciate the love of God in their everyday lives and in the world around them. All school policies remind us that our life at Holy Cross is underpinned by the school's Mission Statement.

At Holy Cross, prayer is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

1 The Nature of Collective Worship

1.1 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.

1.2 We develop community cohesion by inviting members of the public to Mass and other events, regardless of their beliefs; living out our mission statement.

2 Legal Requirements

2.1 In line with the Education Reform Act (1988), collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' At Holy Cross, all Liturgical Prayer is held in a Catholic context and focuses on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church.

2.2 We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We fulfil this requirement through Weekly assemblies, class assemblies, whole school masses, whole school liturgies class liturgical prayer opportunities, mission circles and Lectio Divina.

2.3 Daily acts of worship are not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. Liturgical prayer falls outside of the 10% curriculum time allocated to RE as outlined by the Diocese.

2.4 In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader.

3 The Aims of Collective Worship

3.1 We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of Faith
- 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'
- To encounter Christ in our daily lives

4 The Place of Liturgical Prayer in the life of Our School

4.1 We endorse the belief that Liturgical Prayer takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. This is inclusive of:

- 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.
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5 Principles

5.1 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 background in order to give them a deeper understanding of the liturgical life of the Church.

5.2 In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be child-led
- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience
- Be time-sensitive and appropriately paced in the school day
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings
- Be engaging; using a range of readings, drama, dance, song and focal points
- Be dignified and respectful; children will be expected to behave reverently and engage fully in moments of silence and reflection, and participate fully in hymns and prayers.

6 Timetable for Collective Worship

6.1 Liturgical prayer at Holy Cross take place for the whole school on Mondays and Fridays.

Our mission for the week is introduced in mission circles on a Monday morning and then referred to throughout the week. We then meet in our mission circles again on a Friday. The mission is based on the extra-ordanary and we also share it with our families.

On Monday's the whole school gather for Liturgical Prayer, these assemblies are linked to the Word.

Whole school prayer is held on Friday's in the form of our celebration assemblies Children are recognised on a weekly basis for living out our School Mission Statement. The winners of awards are shared with parents through ClassDojo. During the assembly one child per class will be awarded child of the week and one work of the week.

The children pray in a variety of ways in class in the form of lectio-divina and pupil-led liturgies. Each week, a different group of children have the opportunity to plan and lead a liturgy for their class. Themes are taken from the extraordinary calendar and Monday's mission is also reinforced and weaved into the weekly class liturgies.

Mass is celebrated regularly within the school. Music, especially singing is considered an important part of the Mass celebration at Holy Cross School. The children are given the opportunity to sing weekly (either in Mass, whole school liturgy or singing practice). A worship choir has been introduced to help with the development of this. The pupils in the choir support and lead the music during all the whole school celebrations.

6.2 Parents and Governors are invited to collective liturgical prayer and Masses throughout the year.

7 The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

7.1 Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, the 'Come and See' RE programme, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of liturgical prayer
- 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 promote the ethos and mission of the school
- To develop pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead prayer and liturgy independently

7.2 Prayer and Liturgy is planned using a graduated approach across year groups to support children appropriately in planning and leading their own worship.

8 Recording

8.1 Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- On a liturgical planning sheet to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc
- In the class Prayer file

9 Monitoring and Evaluation

9.1 Children self-evaluate class prayer and liturgy and record feedback on corresponding evaluation sheets. A member of staff completes an evaluation form for all whole school acts of liturgical prayer, which are used to inform future planning.

9.2 Monitoring of parent's views is collected and reviewed.
. The purpose of this is to record the thoughts and reflections of our community
relating to school events, communal worship and visits during the school year. Pupils, teachers, and visitors can add their reflections in the form of interviews, journal entries or photos.

The designated Governor for Religious Education and Prayer & Liturgy is to monitor the policy and practice of opportunities for prayer within the school, and to liaise with the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader.

10 Voluntary Worship and Retreats

10.1 Year 5 **6?** children attend The Briars in December and Year 3 attend a trip to the local synagogue to learn about worship in other faiths. Additionally, the chaplaincy team attend a retreat day in October at the Rosmini Centre organised by STACMAT.

11 Eucharist

11.1 Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and are appropriate to the children's age and understanding of their faith. This will be led by a member of the Clergy, along with the Chaplaincy

team or pupils from a selected year group.

12 Right of withdrawal

12.1 We expect all children to attend prayer and liturgy. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious prayer and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

12.2 The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from prayer and liturgy.