



Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, Swindon



Prayer and Liturgy Policy



School Vision:

Belong

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School we will provide a nurturing and inclusive environment enthused by the Spirit of Christ to enable everyone to make a positive contribution, both to the school and the wider community. We will show love, compassion and respect for others.

A sense of unity will be created by forming relationships that are based on trust, loyalty, forgiveness and acceptance; we will endeavour to act justly and be peacemakers as Christ's disciples, inspired by the Gospel values.

We will encourage a sense of responsibility and help children learn to appreciate God's world around them through reflection, mission, prayer, healing and peace.

Learn

We resolve to develop a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation for our children - where creativity flourishes and everyone is inspired to learn, demonstrating a curiosity about the world around them.

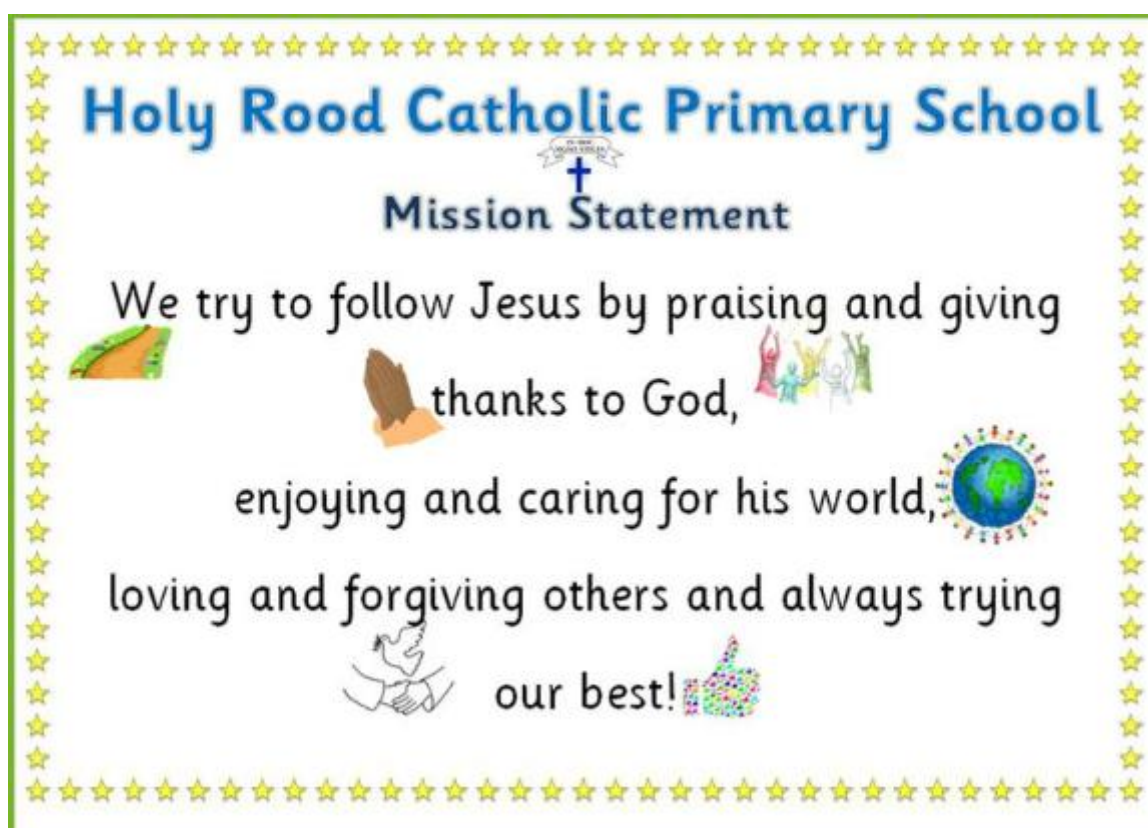
We will strive to ensure that all of our learners are able to face new challenges with confidence, in a Christian learning environment where informed risk taking and a resilient attitude are welcomed, encouraged and achieved.

Our positive and enthusiastic approach to teaching and learning will motivate every person. Each will know that they are uniquely loved by God. We will continue to enjoy our learning and reflect on our efforts and achievements, inspiring us to always try our best.

Achieve

The children will be determined in their daily challenges, gaining confidence in their own ability, imagining what they could achieve with continued effort and commitment and working to fulfil the exclusive plan God has for each of them.

By fully engaging in all aspects of school, children will go on to accomplish as ambitious and competent individuals, always striving to achieve their full potential and positively participating in God's world.





The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Holy Rood Catholic Primary school is a family where Christ is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that every child is made in the image and likeness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and, therefore, everyone is loved, respected, cared for and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of school life where all of our school family is given opportunities to deepen their relationship with God. As a Catholic school, we are called to witness as a worshipping community. Worship is at the very heart of our school community and enriches our religious experience. At Holy Rood there is a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, and celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, different faiths are respected and Prayer and Liturgy is inclusive.

The Place Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

Worship 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 whom school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Aims

Prayer and Liturgy in our school, aims to provide opportunity for all children, staff and visitors:

- 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 develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To reinforce positive attitudes such as generosity, considerateness and kindness.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.



Principles

All Acts of Prayer and Liturgy in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character enabling moral growth.
- 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.
- Celebrations will:
 - Be short and appropriately paced.
 - Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings.

Opportunities for formal Worship:

- Daily Morning Ten Ten prayer
- Daily Grace and end of day prayer
- Weekly class Celebration of the Word – KS2 led by children
- Weekly Ten Ten Assembly
- Weekly Gospel assembly
- Fortnightly Hymn practice
- Termly key stage in school Masses (See RE Overview document)
- Termly whole school Masses at Holy Rood church (See RE overview document)
- Weekly whole school celebration assembly

Where children are not gathered in the main hall for Prayer and Liturgy, Celebration of the Word will take place in their own classrooms.

Whole School Assemblies

The Senior Leadership Team deliver the whole school assemblies for all children, these assemblies are used to celebrate the Gospel as well as personal and class success. The school Chaplaincy leaders also play an active part in delivering assemblies on both sites.

Parents and community

All parents, governors and members of our Parish church are invited in to attend many curriculum afternoons throughout the year e.g. Prayer Week, Christingle making, Pilgrimages and Jigsaw workshops for families, as well as in school Key Stage Masses.

Classroom prayers

Classroom teachers pray with their children at appropriate times, including, the start of each day, at lunchtime and at the end each day and are encouraged to employ a variety of styles of prayer. Progressively, children will be helped towards experiencing short periods of reflection and silent prayer. These prayers are displayed within all class rooms.

Statement of requirements

“The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in



accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained 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)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)). 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

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 who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators are Natasha Eden and Gemma Vallis)
- 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, 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 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 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 Sacrament
- 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

The planning, content and delivery of Celebration of the Word

This is planned following a structure with reference to:

- The Church's seasons and 'Day By Day' (scheme of work recommended by the Diocese).
- The values set out in the School Development Plan.
- Significant dates and events.
- The curriculum.

Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship. With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community. It is planned to develop pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Celebration of the Word in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:

- **Gathering** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience, etc).
- **Word** - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word (sharing a reading taken from the Bible), time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme.
- **Respond** - to ask what has been experienced and what it means to their lives, to offer praise and thanksgiving to God through Christ and to provide a focus to enable an appropriate response.
- **Send forth**-to ask how we take forward into living a good life, to draw together the celebration to offer a bridge to life and practice.

The children in EYFS and KS1 use the Celebrate lens of their RE curriculum to support their Celebration of the Word. This is a time for reflection and sharing of ideas, which is recorded in a class book. The children in Key Stage 2 lead their own weekly class Celebration of the Word using the format above. They work in small groups to plan, lead and deliver their own worships based either on the weekly Gospel reading or linked to a Liturgical event. They are encouraged to think about the meaning of the Gospel, a way in which they can come together to show this within their worship and also how they can encourage others to live out the message in their own lives.

Inclusion:

In keeping with the Gospel message and the RED, *"To know you more clearly and to love you more dearly,"* Prayer and Liturgy within our school community will be planned and delivered in ways that intentionally cater for all groups of children, enabling all pupils to participate fully and meaningfully. Through thoughtful preparation, reasonable adjustments, flexible formats, and inclusive language, prayer and liturgy will be accessible to all. In this way, every child is supported to encounter God's love, develop their relationship with Him, and experience a genuine sense of belonging within the life of the Church and the school community.



Celebration of the Eucharist

All classes are provided with opportunities to celebrate Mass in school as a whole year group. All children attend Mass in church to acknowledge Holy days of obligation e.g. Ascension. The children play an active part in the Mass by reading, singing and writing bidding prayers. The SLT and RE team liaise with the parish to organise these key dates during the summer term in preparation for the following academic year.

These occasions we believe are prayerful and joyful – a time when our uniqueness as a Catholic school is both highlighted and celebrated. Parents and parishioners are invited to celebrate mass with the children in the parish church. We also provide opportunities for non-sacramental liturgies and celebrations. Major feasts and some Saints days are celebrated. We aim to provide all children with opportunities for reflective discussion and prayer.

Hymn Practice

This is viewed as an opportunity to extend joyful prayer through song and actions. It is in this time that the school community can develop a repertoire, learn responses to parts of the mass and experience praise and celebration in different ways.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

RE and worship will be monitored as outlined in the schools monitoring overview. At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all children. It will ensure that all children are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship, the KS2 children being able to lead their own Celebration of the Word within their classes where appropriate. Learning walks, observations and book looks of Celebration of the Word take place throughout the year. Worship will be monitored by the R.E subject leaders and the Head Teacher.

Appendix 1

Definitions

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means ‘work of the people’ and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action.

Prayer

One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God.” These words of St John Damascene, now found in the catechism, illustrate why in this Catholic school we begin and end each session with a prayer.



Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sign of the Cross • The Lord’s Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory be • Grace before meals • Grace after meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostles’ Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love