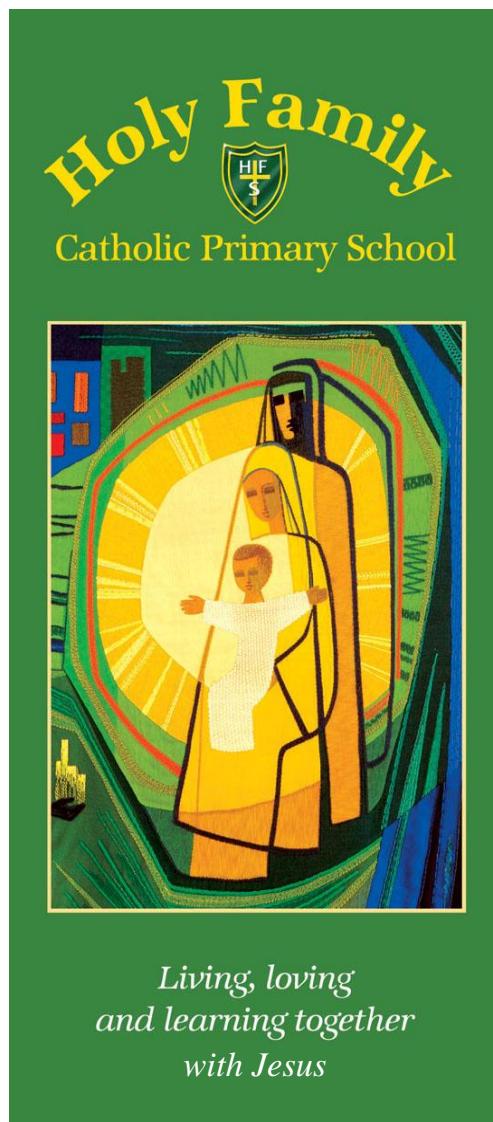


Holy Family Catholic Primary School

The Rosary Trust



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Spring 2025



PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Mission Statement

This policy has been written in line with the School's Mission Statement.

*'In our Catholic School, with God at the centre of our lives,
we offer every child a high standard of education.
We meet individual needs, in a caring and loving community,
which celebrates our faith'.*

.....Living, Loving, Learning, Together with Jesus.....

1. The Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

At Holy Family School, we believe that Prayer and Liturgy is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our response to God's invitation, enabling us to communicate and develop our relationship with God through prayer.

At Holy Family School, Prayer and Liturgy is integral to developing the children's relationship with Christ. Gospel values are embedded in all that we do with Christ at the centre. Prayer and Liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos and we expect all staff to lead and model good practice in prayer. It provides an opportunity for all to reflect on God's word and to celebrate and respond to the beliefs and attitudes, which characterise Christian life. At Holy Family School, we strive to provide a rich variety of prayer and assemblies, which will deepen the pupil's sense of belonging to the Faith community of our school and to the wider church. Children take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating Prayer and Liturgy. We believe worship remembers and celebrates God's work in our lives. It celebrates His presence amongst us today and allows children and staff the opportunity to be joined with Him. Prayer and Liturgy refers not only to whole school gatherings but to those acts of worship which take place in a number of different settings and groupings of people in and around the school. In our school, Prayer and Liturgy takes many forms including prayer, song, assemblies, meditation and liturgies. We strive to provide many opportunities for the children to develop their relationship with God. Children are encouraged to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on their lives and the lives of others.

2. Statement of Requirement

Legal requirements (4.1)

Within maintained schools and academies, there is a legal requirement for an act of collective worship to take place daily. Those responsible for the governance of schools with a religious character are legally required to ensure that collective worship is provided and is in accordance with the trust deed or religious designation of the school. In Catholic maintained schools and academies, this daily requirement will be fulfilled as described in this Directory. In schools where this legal requirement is

held, parents can choose to withdraw their children up to Year 11. Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw. Within our Catholic schools in all Catholic schools (maintained, academies, independent, non-maintained special, sixth-form colleges), Prayer and Liturgy are integral to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils' moral and spiritual development. Taking part in daily Prayer and Liturgy helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the core values and symbols of Christianity. Prayer and Liturgy are, therefore, an important part of a Catholic school's distinctive character. They are integral to the Catholic identity and life of the school, and they take place in all Catholic schools, whether or not schools are required by statute to provide collective worship. Notably, too, pupil participation and engagement in Prayer and Liturgy are crucially important criteria in the diocesan inspection of Catholic education. Therefore, we have replaced the term 'collective worship' with the phrase 'Prayer and Liturgy', which more fittingly describes its role in a Catholic school. The bishop entrusts his responsibility for Prayer and Liturgy to the governors and headteachers. It is their responsibility to ensure that it is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

3. Responsibility

(a) 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 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.

(b) 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.

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 Sacraments.
- 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. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Our children experience and explore a variety of methods of prayer, such as:

- Traditionally learned prayer in a group setting.
- Formal/informal prayer is appropriate to the Liturgical cycle.
- Prayer from scripture.
- Individual, quiet prayer.
- Spontaneous group prayer.
- Prayer using images, music, art, nature, and technology.
- Silent group meditation.
- Prayer in song.
- Prayer for others (petitionary prayer).
- Imaginative prayer.
- Prayer using movement/gestures.
- Monday Gospel assembly is prepared and delivered by the Headteacher (assisted by the Chaplaincy Team).
- Tuesday's assembly is prepared and delivered by the Deputy Headteacher.
- Wednesday, we celebrate Catholic Social Teaching or Celebration of the Word.
- Mass is celebrated in school every Thursday by our Parish Priest. Members of the school and parish communities are invited to attend. We encourage them to attend as we believe this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a demonstration of home and school working together to support the children's achievements.
- Friday's assembly is a celebration of achievement, or seasonal and/or educational/liturgical calendar themes are celebrated often linked to Catholic Social Teaching, e.g. anti bullying (see Catholic Life and Mission policy), followed by communal prayer.
- All Year 6 parents are invited to a mass to celebrate their child's time at Holy Family School before they leave.
- Prayer Garden – for pupils to use at break times for special intentions and an area for class prayer services.
- Class Prayer services.
- Prayer partners.
- Prayer bags for home.
- Rosary club in October and May.
- Advent prayer services.
- Lenten prayer services.
- Retreat day.
- Reconciliation services led by our Parish Priest.
- Home – school link through the provision of class prayer bags and Wednesday Word in newsletters.

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; Prayer and Liturgy (and RE) are given priority funding, 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 are furnished and maintained as such and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs are funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Each class has an RE box with artefacts and fabrics suitable for all seasons of the liturgical year, religious iconography, posters, a half class set of textbooks (for UKS2) and age-appropriate Bibles. New resources are purchased when necessary.

Other resources are available in the central store including:

- Other faiths resources.
- Candles.
- CAFOD materials.
- Graphic Bibles.
- Collection of RE reference books on a variety of topics.

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 and formation 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 involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Half-termly reports are sent to governors. Headteacher's report highlights RE evaluation.

Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

8. Review

This Prayer and Liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body in **Summer 2025** and will be reviewed on a 3 year cycle.