



Holy Family Catholic Primary School Policy for Prayer and Liturgy

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

1. Introduction

This policy is based on the guidance provided in "To Love You More Dearly: Prayer and Liturgy Directory," a document endorsed by the Catholic Education Service and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It aims to foster a rich spiritual environment in our school, integrating prayer and liturgy into daily school life. It involves raising our hearts and minds to God in reverence and praise, both as individuals and as a community. In partnership with parents, governors, and the parish, our school plays a vital role in laying the foundations of faith for the children in our care.

2. Aims and Objectives

- **Spiritual Development:** To nurture the spiritual growth of pupils and staff by providing regular opportunities for prayer and liturgical celebrations.
- **Community Building:** To strengthen the sense of community within the school through shared prayer and worship.
- **Liturgical Education:** To educate pupils about the liturgical practices of the Catholic Church, fostering a deep understanding and appreciation of the faith.

3. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Liturgical Prayer

Liturgical prayer is the term used to describe communal prayer within our school which follows liturgical patterns. Our programme of liturgical prayer at Holy Family aims to embed daily patterns of prayer within school life and to reflect the rhythm of prayer life within the Church. It is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RE curriculum, feast days and other significant dates. A variety of prayer styles are used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

4. Daily Prayer

- **Classroom Prayer:** Each school day will begin and end with prayer. Teachers will lead pupils in age-appropriate prayers, fostering a habit of regular communication with God. We have developed a comprehensive [long-term plan](#) for prayer in our school, integrating specific prayers linked to the Catholic tradition.

- **Grace Before Meals:** Prayers will be said before lunch to thank God for the food provided.

5. Celebration of the Word

Daily Implementation

- **Designated Time:** Each day, a specific time is set aside for the Celebration of the Word, ensuring that students consistently engage with scripture and prayer. This practice is incorporated into the school timetable to highlight its importance.
- **Age-Appropriate Scripture:** The readings and reflections are carefully selected to be age-appropriate, making the scriptures accessible and meaningful for all students. This ensures that children can connect with the messages and apply them to their daily lives.
- **Interactive Participation:** Students are encouraged to participate actively in the Celebration of the Word. This includes reading scripture passages, leading prayers, and sharing reflections, fostering a deeper personal connection to their faith. As children move through the school their involvement in the planning and delivery of these sessions becomes greater.
- **Integration with Curriculum:** The themes of the Celebration of the Word are often linked with the Religious Education curriculum, providing a cohesive approach to spiritual and academic learning.
- **Whole-School Gatherings:** Periodically, the entire school gathers for a communal Celebration of the Word. These events help build a strong sense of community and shared faith among students and staff.
- **Parental Engagement:** Parents are invited to participate in special Celebrations of the Word, strengthening the home-school-parish partnership and supporting the faith development of students within their family context. Adults within our community are invited. We believe that when parents witness their children's eagerness to participate in these activities, they will be inspired to accompany them to Church and foster their spiritual growth. Please see our [School Jotter Calendar for dates and times.](#)
- **Prayer Resources:** Guided by the directory, we utilise a variety of prayer resources to enrich the Celebration of the Word. This includes prayer books, liturgical calendars, and digital resources linked directly from the directory.
- **Staff Training:** Continuous professional development is provided for staff to effectively lead and facilitate the Celebration of the Word, ensuring it is a meaningful and enriching experience for all participants.

6. Liturgical Celebrations

- **School Masses:** At Holy Family, children are actively involved in the preparation and celebration of Mass. They serve as altar servers, readers, presenters of gifts, and choir members, contributing to the smooth running and solemnity of the worship. These Masses provide an opportunity for children, parents, parishioners, and staff to worship together. Whole school Masses are held at the start and end of terms, on Holy Days of Obligation, and significant feast days. Additionally, there are designated class Masses throughout each term. The level of planning and involvement in Mass grows as students progress through each year group, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the liturgy. All community members are invited and encouraged to participate actively in these acts of worship. For specific dates and times, please refer to our School Jotter Calendar.
- **Sacramental Preparation:** The school supports the preparation for and celebration of sacraments, such as First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, in collaboration with local parishes and alongside our catechist teacher. Prayer and assemblies are used to pray for the children who are involved in the programme. It is also a reminder to other children about the importance and relevance of the Sacraments. Children and parents attend meetings in the Parish

Rooms and at church as part of the Sacramental Programme. They also complete work in class as part of their preparation. Catechists Work with the children at the training sessions and offer their prayers and support.

- **Seasonal Liturgies:** Special liturgies are held during key liturgical seasons, such as Advent and Lent, to deepen pupils' understanding and participation in the Church's calendar.

7. Use of Music

- **Music in Liturgy:** Music will be an integral part of our liturgical celebrations, with a focus on hymns and songs that are suitable for children's voices and enhance the liturgical experience.
- **Choir and Musical Ensembles:** The school will encourage the formation of choirs and musical ensembles to support liturgical celebrations and foster musical talent among pupils.

8. Devotional Practices

- **Rosary and Stations of the Cross:** Regular opportunities will be provided for pupils to participate in traditional Catholic devotions, such as the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. Again, we actively invite and encourage all members to participate in regular acts of worship. Please see our [School Jotter Calendar for dates and times](#).
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Each class will have dedicated sessions of Eucharistic Adoration at our church. These sessions will be led by our local catechist, providing students with the opportunity to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and deepen their relationship with Christ. During Eucharistic Adoration, students will be guided through prayers and reflections appropriate to their age group, helping them to understand and appreciate the significance of the Eucharist in Catholic worship.
- **Classroom Devotions:** Teachers will integrate devotions into the classroom environment, using them as teachable moments to deepen pupils' faith.

9. Special Education Needs and Disabilities and More Able

At Holy Family, we recognise the need for careful planning and adaptive approaches to cater for all abilities from very able children to those of a lower ability. This includes creating a supportive environment where all students, regardless of their individual needs, can engage in and benefit from the school's religious activities ([Catholic Education UK](#)) ([Catholic Education UK](#)) ([ICN](#)).

10. Formation and Training

- **Staff Formation:** Continuous professional development will be offered to staff to enhance their ability to lead and participate in prayer and liturgy. This will include workshops, and access to resources.
- **Student Leadership:** Opportunities will be provided for pupils to take leadership roles in prayer and liturgical celebrations, such as altar servers, readers, gift bearers, and choir members, the 'Prayer Buddy' scheme and Faith Ambassadors Program.

11. Policy Implementation

- **Integration into Curriculum:** The principles of this policy will be integrated into the Religious Education curriculum and other areas of school life.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The implementation of this policy will be regularly monitored and evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team, governors and Catechist teachers. Feedback from pupils, staff, and parents will be sought to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant.
- **Resources:** The school will provide necessary resources, including prayer books, hymnals, and liturgical items, to support the implementation of this policy.

12.Roles and Responsibilities

- **Clergy** Fr Nithin and Father Manny are our parish priests.
- **Governors:** Foundation Governors are the Bishop's representatives and have responsibility for ensuring that prayer and liturgy are in accordance with Canon Law, the Bishop's directives, and Diocesan Guidance. The Governors as a whole have responsibility for determining policy and ensuring that appropriate arrangements for prayer and liturgy are in place after consultation with the Headteacher.
- **Headteacher:**The Headteacher is responsible for the organisation of prayer and liturgy in accordance with the policy set by the Governors.
- **Coordinator:** The role of the coordinator includes arranging times, places, resources, planning, preparation, and leadership of the various forms of prayer and worship that take place in the school. They will support and advise staff as necessary.
- **Teacher:** Teachers are witnesses to the life of prayer and worship in the school. They have a key role in ensuring, by their words and deeds, that they provide encouragement and support for the aims and purposes of this policy
- **Parents:** Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from prayer and liturgy. If this happens, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy was drawn up using Diocesan advisory material "To Love You More Dearly" and aims to provide a comprehensive framework for integrating prayer and liturgy into school life.

Approved by the Governing Body:

Review Date: