



## Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship Policy

Following in Jesus' footsteps we will:



*Pray together, Play together, Learn together.*

### **What is Prayer, Liturgy and Worship?**

Prayer, liturgy and worship is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of beliefs, values and events, which are of central importance to us and our community. It is concerned with praising God, forms part of everyday life in a Catholic school and often reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities, including the liturgical celebrations of the Church.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God and can have a variety of forms and styles and express different things.

- Blessing and Adoration – the prayer which blesses God for the goodness which has been shown to humankind
- Prayers to express sorrow – the prayer which asks for forgiveness and which calls for the establishment of the Kingdom of God

- Intercession – consists in asking on behalf of another and ourselves
- Thanksgiving – acknowledging the gifts which God has given
- Praise – the prayer which praises God simply because God is

### **Worship/ Liturgy**

Worship is recognising and celebrating that God is present and active in all authentic human experiences. We have a blessed life and worship is celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. Liturgy is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Through Liturgy and Worship, we encourage the development of a personal relationship with God. Good Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. Worship, Prayer and Liturgy happens when everyone is fully involved in the preparation and celebration.

### **Aims of Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship at Holy Family**

We work towards developing a celebration which includes;

- Working to know and acknowledge the presence of God
- Enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging to a community with a common ethos and shared values
- Opportunities for individual reflection and silent prayer
- Opportunities to pray by giving praise and thanks to God
- Exploring personal beliefs and worshipping God
- Responding to and celebrating life by taking time out to ‘wonder’
- Contemplating something of the mystery of God
- To nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures and silence
- Enriching the religious experience of all members of the school community
- Promoting the values and ethos of the school and reinforcing positive attitudes
- Reflecting on spiritual and moral issues
- Experience what it means to belong or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.
- Learning how the Liturgy of the Church is structured.
- Making links between communal prayer and liturgy and daily life.
- Building a firm foundation for liturgy presented in a **Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth** format.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School in its approach to Collective Worship endeavours to take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those whom form part of the worshipping community in church.
- Those whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those of other Christian tradition.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship in Holy Family Catholic Primary School is an educational and spiritual activity or experience:-

- To which ALL can contribute
- From which ALL can give

This policy statement is based wholly upon our School's Mission Statement. At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Collective Worship is recognised and valued more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic Education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. We acknowledge the legal requirement that **all** pupils must take part in a **daily** act of worship and that Collective Worship is not curriculum time and does not constitute Religious Education although it ought to reinforce it.

Collective Worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the church and having Christ at its heart. Prayer is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the Power of the Spirit.

### **Objectives**

To fulfil the aims, Holy Family Catholic Primary School will provide opportunities for celebrating community to:-

- To celebrate Life and Learning
- To give worth to
- To wonder at
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To pray together
- To take part in worship through drama and song
- To follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- To explore the child's own experiences by helping each individual to EXPLORE REVEAL and RENEW with regard to all acts of collective worship.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

'Where two or three are gathered in my name – I am among them' (Matthew 18:20)

#### **Planning, context and delivery**

The act of worship is intended to be appropriate for all pupils attending St. William of York in terms of content to the age, ability and background of the pupils involved. The school will make every effort to provide the resources and accommodation that are appropriate in its content, form, organisation, presentation and leadership. The timing of this is specific to each class and age group. Generally, it is recommended that children spend at least one minute for each year of their life engaging in a form of worship each day.

Normally the collective act of worship will take place on the school premises but there will be occasions when the school community will gather in church for special celebrations.

*The task of the teacher in Collective Worship, is to go beyond the admiration of the poet and the question of the philosopher as to the 'how' of things and allow the child to find the bond linking him or her with the 'who', God the Creator.*

*-Documents Cate'che'tiques*

All teachers in the school have the responsibility of planning and leading high quality prayer and worship sessions which occur in a variety of ways- whole school, key stage and class worship. They encourage child participation and active response through involvement in the presentation of worship, or through listening to, and joining in the worship offered.

### **Collective Worship – Who**

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School the Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day. Teachers enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents/carers, parishioners and the local school community are invited on a regular basis to participate in Collective Worship.

- We acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship.

In the classroom – where our children spend most of their time; therefore it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and teachers. Here a focus for worship is provided based on the Come and See themes. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in its organisation.

In the school hall – here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the open – at Holy Family Catholic Primary School we have plenty of space outside to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In church – our parish church of Holy Family is a special place to share the message of the Gospel. It is a place of celebration where we can come together as a school to share and worship with the parish community. We also recognise our wider community and celebrate Holy Communion together.

### **Collective Worship – When**

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School we assemble in a variety of groups.

#### Whole School Collective Worship

##### Assemblies

On a weekly basis there is one Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and one whole school assembly. The Deputy Head leads the Key Stage assemblies whilst the whole school assembly is led by

the Headteacher. Other members of staff may lead assemblies on occasion with support from all staff and children.

The themes of the assemblies are based upon the Come and See topics, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects, and promoting of school values. The themes are mapped out across each term to ensure continuity across the school. One class will always prepare and lead a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See topic to which all parents/carers are invited. On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebration assembly. Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are always invited to these whole school acts of Collective Worship e.g. Advent, Lent, etc.

### Class Worship

For the remainder of the week, the class is the focus for worship.

- Relating to work done in the Come and See programme
- Linked to the themes planned out during the year
- Linked to Catholic Social Teaching
- Linked to the appropriate Liturgical season
- Linked to other celebrations
- Themes or ideas developed or suggested by children or staff

The teacher may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

### **Children with Additional Needs**

The whole school approach to Collective Worship is inclusive rather than exclusive. The individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Boys and girls are treated with equal respect. Care is given to ensure that all material used in developing the spiritual needs of the children addresses issues of gender, ability, race and religion.

### **Links to Curriculum Areas**

At Holy Family, we use the Come and See Religious Education Programme and Journey in Love for RSE. Embedded into these programmes are opportunities for collective worship, prayer and reflection. Collective Worship may also be used to promote equality and diversity through promoting Jesus' teaching to 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' Staff recognise the distinctive nature of Collective Worship, however, where appropriate links are made with other curriculum areas.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Worship is regularly monitored and discussed during staff meeting time to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills/abilities in, organising and leading worship. Good practice and resources are shared

during this time. Monitoring takes in the form of planning scrutiny, discussion and observations of Worship in all classes.

### **Prayer**

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child’s school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Collective Worship. Children gather together for prayer at the start and end of the day and also at mealtimes. We also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises.

Class teacher are encouraged to choose prayers, which they think, are most suitable for their children’s age. We also recognise that certain prayers form part of culture and tradition of the Catholic faith and as such we enable the children learn and know the following:-

- Our Father
- Glory Be
- Hail Mary
- Act of Contrition
- Morning Offering
- Prayers before Meals
- Holy Family School Prayer
- ‘Sorry’ Prayer

Also, an increasing knowledge of Mass responses.

Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to make up their own prayers, either as individuals, group or whole class.

Teachers use reflective music in order to create an appropriate atmosphere. Each class is also provided with a candle for their specific focus area for worship within the class. Children occasionally choose and read a prayer at the weekly whole school assemblies.

### **Sacramental Celebration/Liturgy**

Many of our Liturgical services are sacramental thus reflecting a deepening of the sacramental nature of our school

Formal Liturgical services take place in order to celebrate:

#### **The Liturgical Year**

- Advent/Christmas
- Receiving Ashes
- Lent/Holy Week
- Easter
- Holy days of Obligation
- Pentecost
- Feast of the Holy Family

On these occasions all the pupils attend (except Early Years– dependent on time of year).

Through the wide experiences of Collective Worship we encourage our children to develop attitudes of praise and reverence. We allow their natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised and developed. In all our work in this area, we seek to proclaim the Christian message and to live it alongside our children, their families and all in our school community.

### **Conclusion**

Collective worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our journey so that all involved in our community might come to;

‘Have life – life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).

We firmly believe that worship at our school is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Head Teacher

Date: September 2023

Review Date: September 2025