Holy Rood Catholic Primary School
Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Mission Statement

Live, Love, Learn

Holy Rood is proud to be a Catholic school, where Christ is at the heart of our community.

Working in close partnership with the home and parish, we share and celebrate our faith, while respecting and accepting those from other traditions and cultures.

We acknowledge each person's uniqueness and aim to provide a happy Christian environment where everyone can thrive.

We are committed to delivering a broad and balanced education, where each child can become the best they can be. We seek to nurture self-esteem in everyone and develop a sense of responsibility for ourselves and others.

We strive for excellence in all we do.

Context

'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.' (Bishop Marcus Stock ,2012, *Christ at the Centre*)

Statement of requirement

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; 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(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- 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 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.

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Daily Prayers

Children in Reception and KS1 remind themselves that they are in God's presence by starting each day by making the sign of the cross. KS2 children start each day by praying the Our Father or the Hail Mary. These prayers are led by designated prayer leaders in each class. All children also pray before lunch and at the end of the school day, ensuring that each day starts and finishes in prayer. In addition to these prayers, each Key Stage have a progression of prayers that children will be exposed to:

Key Stage	Prayers
EYFS	Home time prayer, lunch time prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary
KS1	Home time prayer, lunch time prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
LKS2	Home time prayer, lunch time prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Eternal Rest
UKS2	Home time prayer, lunch time prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Eternal Rest, The Memorare

Prayer and Liturgy Timetable

Day	**Focus**	**Led by**
Monday	Whole school assembly based on 'Statements to live by"	HT, RE Coordinator or a member of the SLT in their absence
Tuesday	Themed Assembly	Staff, on a half termly rota
Wednesday	Hymn Practice (whole school)	Staff, on a half termly rota
Thursday	Child Led Collective Worship.	Children supported by teachers
Friday	Good work/Celebration (Merit) assembly	Rota of staff

Parental Engagement in Prayer and Liturgy
Throughout the year, homework is set by the class teachers to engage our families in prayer at home. During Advent, travelling cribs are sent home and during Lent, Lenten bags are sent home. Each child in school will have the opportunity to engage with these as a family.

Eucharist and other Liturgies
Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight special occasions. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximized. When preparing these celebrations, reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for good practice.

Children in Year Four often attend weekly classes at the local church on Sundays where they are supported in their preparation for their First Holy Communion and the sacrament of Reconciliation. These sacraments are celebrated at our local church but the school work alongside the parish to help prepare our children fully.

Eucharistic Celebrations are both in school and in church celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Damian Humphries or a priest delegated by him, these include:

- Mass to mark the start of a new academic year
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Christmas Mass
- Mass to celebrate the end of the year and Year 6 leaving.

At all of these celebrations both parents and parishioners are invited; to help foster links between home school and parish.

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 and available resources, 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 will be furnished and

maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

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 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.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Approved by Chair of Governors 

Approved Date: September 2026 Review Date: September 2028