



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

We are a Catholic community where every person is valued. Christ is at the heart of our school and we endeavour to foster the spiritual growth of our pupils, as well as encouraging them to have high moral standards and behaviour. We appreciate that all pupils are on a faith journey. We try to meet pupils where they are and encourage them to ask questions about their purpose and their faith. We recognise each pupil as made in the image of God, all with different gifts and qualities. We promote a community where all pupils can be themselves and be proud of who they are.

Actions

1. Formal Prayer and Reflection

The school provides opportunities for prayer and reflection in a formal way.

- Mass on Tuesday lunchtimes in the chapel is to be led by a different tutor group each week which will be identified on the school calendar
- Year 11 Leavers Mass
- Whole school mass on the feast day, services at Christmas and Easter (held at the local parish church) and at the end of the school year
- Voluntary Mass in St Gregory's Church (with their parishioners and the children from the primary school) on Holy Days of Obligation
- Liturgies for important occasions, e.g. Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Christmas

These events are led by Mrs Walmsley, the school chaplain, with the support of Senior Staff and local clergy.

2. Collective worship – Tutor Time

- Each tutor group will participate in an act of collective worship every morning
- Themes for collective worship, together with prayers and resources, are available in the Collective Worship folder in the Staff Shared Area
- Formal prayers of the Church are available on laminated cards from the school chaplain and the Redemptorist Pupil Planners, and the school prayer is displayed in every classroom and featured in the Pupil Planner
- Tutors should also lead an informal prayer or reflection, based upon a media article, a piece of music or artwork or a poem
- Tutors will encourage pupils to plan and deliver collective worship. They will form a rota so that pupils have the opportunity to provide meaningful prayer experiences.
- During prayer, tutors should ensure that a purposeful and focused atmosphere is created and that pupils respect one another
- Tutors are encouraged to work with pupils to create a prayer resource for their tutor group; a prayer book, jar, or box that can be used as needed throughout the year
- Tutor groups will prepare and participate in one prayer service per year in the Chapel

3. Assemblies

- Assemblies should provide an opportunity for spiritual reflection or prayer and should be based on the collective worship theme for the week, with reference to the School Mission Statement and the School Prayer
- Pupils are encouraged to live their faith in assembly time and to think about how they can use their gifts and talents and fulfil their vocation
- Each tutor group is given the opportunity to lead an assembly and this is organised by the pastoral staff. Pupil participation in delivering assemblies is strongly encouraged

4. Chaplaincy involvement

- Groups of pupils work with the school chaplain to support and plan liturgies. Many of the pupils organise readings during formal liturgies or help out practically by getting the chapel ready for mass on Tuesdays. Any pupil is welcome to join the chaplaincy team
- The Faith in Action Programme is offered to all pupils
- Participation in the Lourdes Pilgrimage as Youth Support Worker is strongly encouraged
- We offer support for Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils to train as Eucharistic ministers

5. The Chapel

The chapel is an important place for our school community. Pupils are welcome to sit quietly in the chapel at break or lunchtime. If they have a particular prayer intention they can place it on the prayer book or ask Mrs Walmsley to include it on the bidding prayers during mass. The electric candles provide a focal point for prayer all day.