



**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.

- Year 11 Leavers Mass
- Mass with the whole school on feast day
- Christmas and Easter services and celebrations 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
- Termly Youth Mass at St Gregory's Church

These events are led by Linda 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 and on Synergy
- Formal prayers of the Church are available on laminated cards from the school chaplain 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 are encouraged to 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 at least one prayer service per year in the Chapel, which should be planned and led by pupils

### **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 in assembly time to live out their faith through our mission statement 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 prepare readings during formal liturgies or help out practically by preparing the space or assisting during liturgy. Any pupil is welcome to join the chaplaincy team
- The Faith in Action Programme is offered to all pupils
- Participation in the Lourdes Pilgrimage is strongly encouraged
- We offer support and training for older pupils who would like to become Eucharistic ministers
- Senior pupils assist with the distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday
- Pupils are encouraged to deepen their knowledge of scripture through the weekly lunchtime Bible Course

### **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 in the prayer book.

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