



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"
John 10:10

Purpose

At Holy Cross Catholic High School prayer and liturgy form the spiritual heartbeat of our school community. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, our policy ensures that all members—pupils, staff, and families—experience the love of God through regular, meaningful acts of worship.

Our vision is to foster a deep and authentic faith life, encouraging every individual to grow in relationship with God and one another through prayer, liturgy, and sacramental life.

Guiding Principles

- **Christ-Centered Worship:** All prayer and liturgical celebrations are grounded in Scripture and Catholic tradition
- **Inclusive Participation:** Every pupil is encouraged to engage in prayer and liturgy, respecting the diversity of faith journeys
- **Pupil Leadership:** Pupils are empowered to take active roles in leading prayer, preparing liturgies, and shaping the spiritual life of the school
- **Liturgical Calendar Awareness:** Our worship reflects the rhythm of the Church's year, with celebrations including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Saints' feast days
- **Staff Support & Development:** Staff are offered formation and resources to confidently support and lead liturgical practice

Structures and Practices

Daily Prayer

- Morning prayers are shared in tutor groups
- Prayers may be led by pupils, staff, or school Chaplain using resources provided by the Chaplaincy or RE department

Weekly Worship

- Each year group gathers for Celebration Of The Word at least once per week
- All these assemblies are focused on scripture
- Themes are drawn from the liturgical calendar or moral teachings and social justice issues aligned with Catholic Social Teaching

Seasonal Liturgies & Masses

- Whole-school or year-group liturgies mark major events in the Church calendar
- Opportunities to celebrate Mass—either class-based, year-group, or whole-school—are provided regularly, with the support of parish clergy
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during Lent or Advent where possible

Retreats and Reflection

- Retreats are organised for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9
- These may include themes of vocation, identity, and discipleship, often facilitated by the Chaplaincy team or external partners

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team: Uphold and monitor policy implementation. Support liturgical planning.

Chaplain: Coordinate and lead liturgical life. Provide spiritual support.

Pupils: Lead prayer and worship. Participate actively in liturgical life.

Parish Priests: Celebrate Masses and Sacraments. Offer pastoral support.

Inclusion and Respect

- While Catholic worship is central, pupils from other faiths are invited to participate respectfully and reflect within their own traditions where appropriate
- Assemblies and liturgical moments respect and value diversity while staying faithful to Catholic values

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Annual review of liturgical life led by Headteacher and Chaplain
- Feedback gathered from pupils and staff to enhance the spiritual atmosphere
- Regular Archdiocesan and Ofsted inspections are supported with clear documentation of worship practices

Approved: September 2025

Review date: Summer 2027