



Holy Rosary Catholic Academy – Collective Worship Policy

This policy reflects and supports the aims of our Mission Statement:

‘Loving Heart – Strong Mind’

At Holy Rosary we pride ourselves on our strong Catholic ethos based on the Gospel values and teaching of the Church. To this end we aim to maintain a high standard of behaviour. An important part of this is the support we receive from the families who share our values.

RATIONALE

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, these acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main Catholic or ‘nominally’ Christian. In addition, there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from nonreligious backgrounds.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we must consider the background that our children come. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

“God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

We believe at Holy Rosary Catholic Voluntary Academy that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship.

The aims of Collective worship at our school are:

Foster an understanding of what it means to belong to a community and be inclusive

Provide opportunities for pupils to engage with an act of worship

Encourage the development of a personal relationship with God

Provide experiences of sharing values and celebrating significant events in the lives of individuals and the community

Develop knowledge of and experience the seasons within the Church’s year

Develop knowledge and understanding of scripture

Develop and celebrate skills of creativity

We understand worship to be a special act of occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a mass, a liturgy or an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in worship.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- Foster a sense of fellowship bringing pupils together.
- Create an atmosphere where children can experience worship
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce pupils to various aspect e.g., prayers, hymns etc.

OBJECTIVES

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives.

We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.

- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn etc.
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people

ORGANISATION & PROCEDURE

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards & Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school as part of the ***Holy Rosary Way***.

This forms part of each assembly, held in the hall, which is whole-school Celebration assembly (Mondays), and a whole school Praise and Worship Assembly (Thursday). A Celebration of the Word led by a group of children within class on a Tuesday. (Thursday and Friday) is when whole school masses or class led celebration of the words to the whole school take place. Each half term is begun with a Gospel Value themed Celebration of the Word and the half term concludes with a whole school RED RESPOND Celebration of the Word led by the Messengers to draw together the learning from the term.

As our children progress through school, we expect them to take increasing ownership in the planning, preparation and delivery of the class liturgies so by the time the children are older juniors they can deliver a class liturgy proficiently and confidently. Our skills progression document maps out the graduated level of ownership for pupils as they journey through the school.

We conduct all Celebrations of the Word: liturgies, masses or assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that liturgy time is a period of reflection or joyful celebration. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, gesture, symbolic actions, visual stimuli and artifacts and reflections to act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

In some instances we use our You tube channel 'Holy Rosary TV' to upload acts of worship prepared by our pupils so that our whole community can join in the worship life of our school at any time in their own homes as well.

On a Monday we have the Achievement Assembly. During the assembly children's contributions to school life and their own development are celebrated through Teacher Affirmations and Character Awards. Pupils are encouraged to show case and celebrate their gifts and talents to the school. These awards play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognized. Children receiving Character Awards are offered the chance to 'Dine with Dyche' on a Friday lunchtime.

On a Wednesday, our GOSPEL Assembly of the Word is led by our chaplaincy team 'The Messengers' and by the Headteacher. All times of prayer and liturgy have a clear focus and include a mission for the children to follow during the week.

On Tuesday and Thursday, we have worship within our classes which is child led using the 'See, Think, Hear, Do' approach. Themes are supported by the worship resources provided NDCYS and SRS Chaplaincy. The themes may include a particular saint; a theme pertinent to the class and their religious studies or linked to the liturgical year. Each class has their own liturgy resources and their own worship folder to enable pupils to lead one another in worship.

On a Thursday, we have a Praise and Worship Singing assembly. These can focus upon necessary learning of hymns and songs for liturgies and masses. These can be both traditional and contemporary. Hymns are chosen in line with RED areas of study and the liturgical year in order to encourage the children to make links to them in their learning.

Policy written by: Mrs Dyche

Policy reviewed – July 2026

Review date: July 2027

Children attend mass at St Joseph's Church with their class at least once every term. Whole school Academy Masses take place at least once a half term. We welcome governors' attendance at our liturgies, masses or assemblies at any time. Holy days of Obligation are marked with a Mass. The Feast of the Holy Rosary is also marked with a mass and a day of celebration around the theme.

Class led Celebrations of the Word

As part of the Annual Plan for Provision a theme is explored through Whole Class Celebrations of the Word every year. This will link to the wider vision of Catholic Life for the school at that time such as the development of CST Principles, Our Character Values or the UNICEF Rights of the Child.

We invite parents to Celebrations of the Word, liturgies, Masses and assemblies and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children. We also welcome governors' attendance at our special assemblies, similarly as a way of governors sharing in and getting to know the work of the school.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, such as the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning/PSHE (Black History Month or Mary's Meals). We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place through the Annual Plan of Provision,, although some assemblies do respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are used including:

- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Music
- Artefacts and Visual Aids
- Dialogue and Pupils' Contributions
- Visitors
- Stories
- Film
- Prayer/ Creative Silence

The person leading the assembly will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, and the background of the children. Pupils will be asked to participate in a variety of ways: answer questions; give opinions; describe an event/feeling; drama; discuss in pairs.

The ethos of both assembly and worship should promote "togetherness" and a sense of school family/community.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES TO CELEBRATE

During the course of the year, a number of special assemblies are undertaken to reflect both the traditions and liturgical calendar of the Christian Churches (e.g. Christmas, Easter), and the religious traditions and calendars of all other faiths that may be represented in the school and the wider community. Special assemblies may be held to mark significant days in the calendar, such as Remembrance Day. These are led by the Messengers.

The seasons of **Advent and Lent** are times of preparation for Christmas and Easter, but need to be given their own importance. A focus is given to both these seasons by fundraising for certain causes and providing

prayer/activity for the children to attend. Prayer and assemblies at these times reflect the season. The Advent Celebration of the Word takes place as a whole school where each class takes responsibility for delivering a specific part of the liturgy. Foundation Stage and KS1 deliver a Nativity play to reflect the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. During the last week of the Spring term, the LKS2 lead the school in an Easter Reflection to enable pupils to reflect upon the events leading up to the resurrection.

Prayer

Children have a natural aptitude for prayer. They are open to God. They respond in joy, wonder, elation, anger or disappointment to the world around them. True prayer draws us to discover God within our deepest being, and calls us to walk with God in faith.

When praying with children we must remember that each of them is unique and therefore their prayer is unique. They come from different homes with different experiences, and teachers will need to provide creative and varied opportunities for prayer within their classrooms. We encourage the children to take time for spontaneous prayer and direct children to both our Chapel, Prayer Gardens and Prayer Areas within the school where they can take time for personal reflection.

Prayer in the classroom

A daily experience of prayer – in classroom, assembly or elsewhere – is much more than just a legal requirement. It should be at the heart of every school. It is a centre to which many of the achievements and challenges of daily life can be brought and from which strength and purpose can be taken. At this centre is the person of Jesus, the Son of God.

Daily prayer helps make Jesus real for all in the school, a friend whom they can trust and relate to, one who is a guide, and one to whom they can turn in time of need. Prayer within the classroom should take place before and after lunch, at the start and end of the day. The community must be able to pray as well as recite prayers together. Pupils should learn, and experience, all forms of prayer so that they can adore, give praise and thanks, express sorrow to God on their own behalf and on behalf of others, as well as offer prayers of petition and intercession.

Each class should provide a prayer focus within their room, in the form of a display, collection of artifacts, bible and candle etc. where the children can focus during times of class prayer or private reflection during the day.

While it is important that children should learn to pray, there is always a place for learning prayer that can be recited together. The RE curriculum plays an important role by providing opportunities to teach pupils about prayer, and also for them to learn prayers.

Staff Prayer

“One of the distinctive features of the Catholic school is that it proclaims itself as a faith community...as part of their life as a faith community, Catholic schools are committed to communal prayer. There is an expectation that all teachers will play an active part in this.”

Our weekly staff briefing begins with a prayer or reflection led by different members of the staff team

SUCCESS CRITERIA

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils.
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community.
- Positive response to shared experience.
- An atmosphere which matches the theme.
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being.
- A sense of occasion.
- Good order.
- Staff affirmation.
- A sense of challenge.
- A place in the plan of the school.
- Enrichment of pupils` experience

WITHDRAW

As we are a Catholic School, and parents/carers have applied to the school knowing this, we expect all children to attend assemblies, mass and celebrations of the word.

However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Leader for Collective Worship (Mrs Dyche) supports the Chaplaincy Team (Messengers) in the regular monitoring of collective worship in classes across the school

The governing body liaises with the Headteacher on collective worship and reviews the policy and practice with him on an annual basis

