

**“We live, learn and love in His way.”**



**Holy Family RC Primary School**

## **WORSHIP POLICY**

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### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of Holy Family Roman Catholic Primary School is: We live, learn and love in His way.**

**We will achieve this by making the most of every opportunity, knowing that we are all unique and made in the image of God, each with a special role to play within His creation.**

### **Aims**

At Holy Family R.C. Primary School, worship is an integral and vital aspect of daily life. Through different forms of worship, we seek to reinforce our school mission:

Worship within school is founded on the promotion of the Gospel values which underpin all we do. It encompasses the following aims:

- Enable pupils and staff to develop personal relationships with God through prayer
- Develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and ourselves
- Foster a faith community and an individual sense of belonging
- Provide time for reflection on the mysteries of faith
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of scripture
- Explore and understand religious beliefs and practices
- Celebrate and give thanks
- Reflect on moral and spiritual issues
- Provide experience of a variety of forms of prayer

### **Organisation**

Worship within school occurs on a daily basis. An act of collective worship takes place each morning, either through whole school or Key Stage gatherings led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or within individual classrooms. The worship focus reflects the Liturgical calendar and contains scripture at its core. It is appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of those participating.

Weekly masses take place in the hall on a Wednesday morning and are prepared by a different class from Year 2 – Year 6 each week.

Staff meetings and briefing sessions begin with a prayerful reflection to remind staff of their role and purpose as evangelists within the school community.

A staff prayer area is set up on Friday mornings in the meeting room at the front of school. This is left in place until 9.30am should any parents wish to come into school to pray once they have dropped their children in at school.

Each classroom contains a prayer table which acts as a stimulus for prayer. All prayer tables reflect the Liturgical season with scripture passages and prompts which are consistent within each Key Stage.

Pupils and staff are encouraged to participate in different forms of prayer.

In addition to whole school and class worship opportunities, a weekly whole school Musical Worship session takes place to enable children and staff to pray through song.

### **Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is planned following a structure which references Liturgical seasons and the Religious Education curriculum. Whole school and Key Stage collective worship sessions are planned ahead for the academic year to ensure a broad and varied range of scripture. It includes flexibility to enable staff and pupils to respond to any issues or events which arise and affect themselves or others.

Prayer and Worship sessions take place in each class as part of each unit taught in Come and See. The format of each liturgy is as follows:

- Gathering together
- Word of God
- Response to the Word
- Going forth

In addition, children are taught to recite a range of prayers from heart, to enable them to pray together from memory. These will include traditional prayers, mass responses and prayers from the liturgy for special feasts.

Pupils take an active role in the planning and delivery of collective worship. Regular class and whole school masses present opportunities for each year group to lead others in worship, with the support of the Prayer Leaders and members of staff.

Prayer Leaders also plan and lead extra- curricular prayer groups open to pupils, parents and parishioners. These include Rosary groups during May and October and weekly morning masses.

### **Parent and Parish Links**

The Catholic ethos of Holy Family is rooted in the values of a Christ centred life. To ensure we live out these beliefs, we support children in developing an understanding of their role as Catholics within a wider faith community.

We recognise that our parents are the primary educators of their children.

We seek to promote an open and genuine partnership with parents and carers through the following:

- Welcoming parents of incoming pupils and familiarising them with the school's mission
- Encouraging the attendance and participation of family members in acts of worship, celebrations and masses
- Instruction sessions for parents supporting children through the Sacramental Programme, led by the parish priest and catechists
- Family masses on Sunday's regularly in church where children lead the liturgy and singing.

As a Catholic school, Holy Family has a vital role within the parish. We maintain strong links with the parish and wider community through the following:

- Inviting parishioners to masses and worship celebrations
- Involvement of parishioners in the sacramental programme
- Inter-school support within Salford Diocese
- Exploration of world faiths, their beliefs and practices
- Fundraising for local diocesan, national and international charitable organisations

M Johnson

R.E. Leader

September 2018

Policy Review Date: July 2020