

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy is based on the Archdiocese of Southwark Diocesan Policy 2019 for Collective Worship.

### 1. Introduction

Collective Worship at Holy Cross Preparatory School acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our school is shaped and sustained.

Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, is intrinsically woven into the fabric of our school's Catholic identity.

### 2. Expectations

As a Catholic faith school, Holy Cross expects:

- to provide daily Collective Worship for all pupils;
- Acts of Collective Worship not to be designated curriculum time;
- and pupils attending the school will participate in the school's Mission in which 'the worship of God, gospel values and an awareness of all faiths, as well as a sensitivity for others, are central to school life'. This includes Collective Worship.

In addition:

- Staff and the members of the board of trustees have a responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of the school.

### 3. Responsibility and oversight of Collective Worship

The board of trustees and headteacher are responsible for ensuring that there are time tables opportunities for whole school, class and year group worship.

Our school ensures;

- that there is a named person who is responsible for coordinating collective worship across the school;
- that collective worship, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily;
- that all pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day;
- that collective worship is well-resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead;
- that there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Collective Worship which clearly demonstrates the impact on the school's Catholic mission.

### 4. Principles of Collective Worship

Acts of Worship in our Catholic schools should endeavour to:

- give praise and honour to God;
- give pupils meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church;
- give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church;

- be of high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

### 5. Aims of Collective Worship

The ultimate aim of Collective Worship in our Catholic school is to provide the space and tools for pupils within the context of the Catholic faith and traditions:

- to contemplate the mystery of God;
- to develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- to foster and nurture relationships;
- to respond to and to celebrate life;
- to experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- to nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;
- to enrich religious experience;
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- to seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

The opportunity to gather together as a community for Collective Worship is an essential part of our school life. We believe that this time together for prayer and reflection strengthens the children in their relationship with God. We value highly the chance to pray together, listen together, sing together and celebrate together. An act of collective worship takes place each day either in class, prayer space (prayer room or Hannah's prayer garden) or together in the school hall.

#### Whole school liturgies

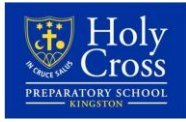
Our whole school assemblies are led by members of the senior leadership team (SLT). Themes for these assemblies are based on events in the Church's liturgical year such as special feast days or holydays.

#### Class Assemblies/Collective Worship

These take place each term; they are prepared by the class and their teacher and presented to the rest of the school. This provides classes with an opportunity to share and celebrate their work. Themes are often based on work currently going on in class or in the world, linked with the gospel, RE scheme or in line with events in the Church's liturgical year. Currently the school uses Ten Ten resources.

#### Liturgical Services

Each class in the juniors is timetabled to prepare a liturgical service for the rest of the school. This gives an opportunity for prayer, reflection and celebration. Parents are welcomed to share in these services. Pupils in year 3 prepare a 'Service of Inscription' to celebrate the start of a faith journey for those who are embarking on their First Holy Communion sacramental programme in their own parishes and a final Going Forth Mass celebration. During Lent, services to mark the events of Holy Week are prepared by pupils: Palm Sunday (liturgy), Holy



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Thursday (The Last Supper liturgy) and Good Friday (A Lenten Reflection and Walk through the school grounds). Parents are encouraged to participate. Pre-prep classes prepare a short class-based liturgy; parents are welcome to share in these celebrations.

### Pupil led Collective Worship

Each week small groups of pupils lead the age appropriate Collective Worship for their class. This should be a creative, independent reflection and celebration of worship planned and led by pupils.

The following resources are used to support Acts of Collective Worship:

- Ten Ten: whole school liturgy
- CAFOD: pupil-led class liturgies
- Pray Together: teacher-led class liturgies