

# Holy Family Catholic Primary School, New Springs

## Mission Statement

**We are a caring family, we pray, learn and grow together**

## Policy for Collective Prayer and Worship

Holy Family School is a Catholic community which has prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations at its heart. Through the frequent and varied Acts of Worship, the members of Holy Family community (Pupils, staff, governors, clergy and parents) deepen their faith and understanding of God's world and abounding love for each one of us.

### **Aims:**

1. To provide the opportunity for all children to experience the joys of worshipping together.
2. To enhance and enrich children's understanding of gospel values and the life of Jesus.
3. To provide opportunities for group/individual reflection and silent prayer.
4. To encourage an understanding of our religious beliefs and practices
5. To give children opportunities to contribute their own prayer and participation in celebrations and the Liturgy.
6. To develop a strong sense of community.
7. To encourage an awareness and sensitivity towards other individuals and their needs.
8. To foster a sense of awe and wonder in God's creation and an appreciation of the need to conserve it.

### **Teaching Approaches**

A variety of teaching approaches are presented to children during times of prayer and worship. These include:

- a) Teacher guided sessions, where children are taught prayers formally.
- b) Worship led by 'The Chaplaincy Team.'
- c) Class sessions where members are encouraged to create prayers during quiet reflection.
- d) The use of simple prayer focal points.
- e) The use of role-play.
- f) The use of audio visual aids.
- g) Visiting places of worship.
- h) The use of outside speakers to share their experiences of prayer and worship.

Each child will experience prayer and worship in a variety of ways appropriate to their age. They learn a variety of traditional prayers as well as being encouraged to pray spontaneously and to write their own.

Each school day begins and ends with prayer.

Each classroom has its own focal point which is changed on a regular basis.

Grace before Meals is said at noon and Grace after Meals at the beginning of the afternoon.

Other opportunities for individual or class prayer and reflection will arise throughout the day.

### **Assemblies are held as follows:**

#### **Headteacher's Assembly**

This is held once a week and may include reference to the previous Sunday's Liturgy or readings on an alternative theme. These themes may be linked with the liturgical year or may involve current themes which are relevant to the needs of the children.

## **Key Stage Assemblies**

Assembly is held once a week within each Key Stage and is led by teachers on a rota basis. The content of each of the Key Stage assemblies is based on the resource “Nurturing Human Wholeness”. The Assemblies are linked to the Ethos Statements to Live By. Focal points are used and together with quiet music create an atmosphere in which the children are able to reflect on the theme of the assembly. Each assembly is supported by a circle time Act of Worship held within each class.

## **Other Opportunities for Worship**

Each class celebrates Mass with the parish community in Holy Family Church every half term.

Masses are celebrated in school at regular intervals and the members of the Parish are invited. Children are involved by preparing the readings, hymns and prayers.

### **School Masses are celebrated:-**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Autumn Term | The beginning of the new school year   |
| Spring Term | Beginning of term to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.<br>Beginning of Lent<br>Easter |
| Summer Term | Leavers Mass   |

The school and Parish, celebrates with Year 3, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

### **The whole of Holy Family Community are invited to these celebrations.**

There are many other non Eucharistic acts of worship which the children take part in  
These are as follows:

- Christingle
- Carol Singing
- Stations of the Cross
- Children’s prayer services and class assemblies