



BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PRAYER AND WORSHIP POLICY

All that happens in Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School occurs within the context of the school's Mission Statement (in accordance with the Trust Deed for the maintenance and advancement of the Catholic religion).

Written: June 2023

Updated:

Adopted: June 2023

Persons Responsible: Chaplain and Headteacher

Committee: Curriculum and Personnel

Review Due: June 2026 – 3 yearly

As a Catholic school, founded on, and committed to upholding the teaching of the Church, we believe that Jesus is present in the day to day life of our community and that each member of our community has a divine origin and an eternal destiny. In discharging our responsibilities, we are guided by the principles of Catholic social teaching [CST], in which the following core values are constituted: dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, the promotion of peace, care for creation, the dignity of work and the value of participation in society. These principles are demonstrated in our core, and wider, curriculum, in our care of students, in our work with the disadvantaged and in the outward-facing approach to our local community, our nation and to the world. As our moral compass, CST guides us in all our school activities, including the formulation, upholding and reviewing of school policies.

As a Catholic school, we regard the following characteristics as central to the human flourishing of everyone – students, staff and Governors – in our community. Our aspirations for our students are that their experience of teaching develops in them a lived belief, an authentic sense of true happiness, a lived sense of family, an experience of care and a vocation for service.

To achieve these aspirations, teaching and learning will privilege the following core virtues for every member of our community.

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

Attentive to their experience and to their vocation; and discerning about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.

Eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

Learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

Curious about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and prophetic in the example they set to others.

Prayer and Worship are at the heart of Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School
- it is an integral part of School life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The aims of Prayer and Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for pupils and staff, and visitors, to take part in, lead and evaluate Collective Worship and, therefore, to encounter God.
- to enable pupils to develop their own spirituality, based on an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith.
- to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- to encourage participation and response.
- to develop a sense of community spirit.
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to teach pupils how to worship.
- to enable pupils to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus and His teachings.

Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship.

How do we achieve our aims

Daily collective acts of worship, at Assembly time, which are based on Year Groups and occur weekly throughout the school year, giving the opportunity to reflect on a spiritual, moral or religious theme as a group.

Acts of worship are conducted in a dignified and respectful way and pupils understand that this is a special period of calm reflection. We ask all to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayers. There is always an opportunity for Prayer and Liturgy where the children can take part in a variety of prayer experiences. e.g. responding to scripture readings, the identification of prayer intentions, individual prayer, spontaneous prayer, silent prayer, traditional prayers of the Church, music and singing, drama, poetry etc. Students are called on to design and lead assemblies and liturgies.

On the days when children are not involved in an act of worship based in assembly time, an act of prayer takes place in the classroom as tutor groups lead by the Tutor, a nominated or self-nominated student and involving active student participation. Again, music and singing are encouraged.

In keeping with the ethos of our school, our collective worship is Christian, based on the Bible teachings, the traditions of the Catholic Church and our school ethos. The school will also facilitate the faith practice of students from differing traditions of belief, mindful of their dignity and the positive contribution of such observance to their development.

Our aim is for our collective worship to be prayerful and relevant and as much a part of the day as any other school activity. It takes various forms, e.g. structured services, Lectio Divina, directed reflection (from our own resources or from visiting speakers) plays/assemblies, songs of praise etc. and pupil participation and preparation is greatly encouraged and implemented.

The liturgical year gives our Collective Worship its framework while the needs and events of our worlds of family, school, national and international society, make up its content.

Organisation and Conduct of prayer and worship

- The overall responsibility for prayer and worship lies with the Headteacher.
- The staff, on a rota basis, lead the staff in prayer at the beginning of staff briefings. Staff of differing traditions may wish to use poetry or elements from their tradition.
- Year Assemblies -responsibility of Head of Year or the SLT according to a prepared Rota.
- Tutor Prayer-responsibility of Tutor, using School developed prayer book, Tutor /Student self- sourced or written.
- Special Services e.g. Ash Wednesday Services, School Masses, responsibility of Lay Chaplain.
- Organisation of Rota for Prayer, Liturgies and Assemblies, responsibility of Lay Chaplain.
- Organisation of Examination Prayers- Responsibility of HOY and Lay Chaplain.
- All prayers in school will end asking for the intercession of the school patron. - Blessed Hugh Faringdon- Responsibility of Staff.
- We begin our wider events and meetings with an appropriate prayer, asking for the intercession of Blessed Hugh Faringdon, to which all attending are invited to join in. Responsibility of Staff.
- Voluntary Morning Office for Staff-Responsibility of HT and Staff choosing to be involved.

Staff are to model the expectations and behaviours found in our Mission Statement so that students are able note how this can be seen in day-to-day life.

Masses held throughout the school year include -

- The Staff Mass for the start of the Year, Welcome Mass for Year 7 led by the Abbot of Douai Abbey, Blessed Hugh Faringdon Mass, Tutor Masses, Commissioning Mass, Leavers' Mass for Years 13 , Staff Leavers' Mass.
- Special Services are held in Advent and Lent to mark these special periods in the Liturgical year, e.g. Advent Carol Service, Ash Wednesday and Reconciliation Services.
- Other Church Feast Days are celebrated through Masses or special services - celebrating other liturgies such as the Resurrection, Feast Days, Memorial Masses, Remembrance Day, Yr 6 Leavers Mass at Douai Abbey, the Annual Schools Mass in Portsmouth.

Retreat/ Retreat style Activities

Yr 7 Pilgrimage - each Yr 7 tutor group will make a pilgrimage to Reading Abbey - confirming the link to our school Patron – Responsibility of Lay Chaplain and History Subject Leader.

Lectio Divina – learning the monastic tradition of prayerful contemplation.

Catholic Literacy – ensuring all Year 7s have a basic understanding of the distinctive nature of being a student in a Catholic school.

Yr 9 - Personhood-Psalm 139;13-16... I praise you because I am wonderfully made; ...
Responsibility of RE Department.

Sixth Form - Yr 12 and 13 - Separate days based on Themes suitable to their Yr group
eg Changes, New Beginnings - Responsibility of Lay Chaplain.

Voluntary Staff Retreat held annually - Responsibility of Lay Chaplain.

Staff Annual Ethos Days - CPD SLT Lead.

New staff induction – Karyn Stiles/HT

Equal Opportunities: All children are given an equal chance to join in Prayer and Liturgy
according to their age and ability.

Right of Withdrawal Individuals: may withdraw from acts of Prayer and Liturgy but
parents should keep the School's Mission Statement in mind when applying for a place
at our school.

APPENDIX 1

Organisation of Tutor Group Worship

The organisation of Tutor Group worship is arranged by the Form Tutors. It may either be led by the Form Tutor themselves or by the students, either individually or in groups on a rota basis with guidance from the Form Tutor, Year Leader or Chaplain.

The format of Tutor Group worship may differ from group to group but may involve a number of the following activities:

- Prayers from the School Prayer Book.
- Prayers written on the board, scripture, poems, short stories, drama or Prayers from books or online.
- Personal prayers written by students on topics of immediate concern in the world (e.g. natural disasters).
- Prayers for sick or dying relatives.
- Psalms or silent personal prayers.
- A short reflection (e.g. based on newspaper story/piece of music).

Themes (e.g. forgiveness, understanding, sharing). Themes selected may be either of a religious, moral, or humanistic nature and students explain the message which they wish to put across.

Themes selected should relate to the Liturgical Calendar of Advent, Lent, Saints Feast Days, etc, wherever possible. The Chaplain also distributes relevant material for Year Leaders e.g. Faith Unity Week (as found of the Published Rota).

Staff may also select their own material or use traditional well-known prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to The Father etc.)

Students are encouraged to become involved in the organisation of a tutor group worship with guidance and support from the Tutor.

The school Chaplain is also available for both students and staff to seek further advice and guidance on resources and support in leading and evaluating prayer and liturgy.

On rota-basis, tutor groups will be involved in tutor group worship e.g. Yr 7 and 8 attend Local Parish Church for Morning Mass.