

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD POLICY

Reviewed: January 2026

To be reviewed: January 2028

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THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD POLICY

'Living, Loving and Learning as followers of Jesus Christ.'

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In the life of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. The religious growth of the children will be in a happy, stimulating, secure and caring Catholic Ethos. Our R.E. curriculum actively contributes towards the aims specified in the school's Mission Statement. Celebration of the Word is at the heart of this.

AIMS:

Holy Family School is committed to promoting:

- The search for excellence
- The uniqueness of the individual
- The education of the whole person
- The education of all
- The Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Class Whole School Celebration of the Word and Stay and Pray sessions also help the children to understand some of the elements of liturgy (such as greeting, silence, community praise especially in song) have a great part to play in their liturgical formation and in preparing them for the liturgical life of the Church.

Celebration of the Word within Holy Family offers opportunities:

- to worship God
- to consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer

- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- to have an awareness and develop an understanding of our Global Family
- to explore Christian values
- to have an awareness of and explore the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Celebration of the Word at Holy Family is inclusive of all members of the school and community. It provides opportunities to worship and pray together in many different forms. It allows children to engage with worship at an age appropriate level.

PRINCIPLES/PLANNING:

Weekly:

- Whole School Celebration of the Word: Monday
- Key Stage Celebration of the Word: Tuesday
- Class Celebration of the Word: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday -one of these may be a 'Stay and Pray' for parents. One worship per week is planned and led by children (supported by staff as necessary).
- Class prayers daily: Morning, Afternoon and Grace before lunch
- One Worship per half term: is planned and delivered by our Mini-Vinnies to the whole school

All acts of Celebration of the Word should be planned for while considering the following:

GATHER: Members of the school community join together to create a prayerful atmosphere.

LISTEN: Listen to and contemplate scripture.

RESPOND: Reflect on the scripture heard and respond in different ways.

GO FORTH: Leave the worship, taking the message from the scripture into own lives.

Celebration of the Word sessions, may take many different forms including:

- Music and song
- Dance
- Drama/Mime
- Poetry
- Prayer
- Meditation
- Art Work

We plan for the themes of Celebration of the Word by considering the following:

- Mission Statement
- Whole school focus'
- Come and See/ To Know you more clearly themes
- PSHE/RSHE focuses, e.g. friendship
- Holy Days and periods of preparation for significant days in the liturgical calendar
- World Events

- Needs of the class

Celebration of the Word sessions takes place in many areas of the school including the outside nature trail and on residential visits.

CO-ORDINATION:

The Head teacher and RE coordinator organise the Celebration of the Word programme, establishing a pattern of suggested themes which are distributed termly.

ORGANISATION:

- Whole School Celebration of the Word – Headteacher/DHT
- Key Stage (EYFS/ KS1/KS2) Celebration of the Word – Class teachers
- Class Celebration of the Word – Class teacher
- Children Class prayers – led by class teacher

Every year group leads whole school Celebration of the Word once a year, and a Class Mass with Father. The class usually celebrates the current Come and See/ To know you more clearly theme but on occasion, Holy days or significant events such as Easter are the focus for Celebration of the Word.

PRAYER TABLE/FOCUS TABLE/POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS:

A special area is set-aside in each classroom. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. During Whole School or Key Stage Celebration of the Word, a special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artefact may be used as a centering object during prayer. When 'special' acts of Celebration of the Word are planned, e.g. during Lent/Advent, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, then very specific presentations are prepared. They include appropriate and poignant images, video clips, prayers, hymn/song words, etc.

RESOURCES:

All staff have access to a number of copies of 'God's Story', 'Church Story' and a copy of the 'Good News' children's Bible appropriate to the age of the children being taught. In addition, there is a wide variety of story books and resource books to use to support the planning and delivery of Celebration of the Word. We also have resources that can be used for focus tables and as a means for discussion, e.g. Harvest items, etc.

PUPIL INVOLVEMENT:

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies and in the Respond section of Come and See in class groups.

There are regular opportunities for parents, families and other visitors e.g. Governors to join in

worship. This takes place in 'Stay and Pray' sessions which occur throughout the year. There are also opportunities for Staff Worship during training days and meetings. One Worship per half term, is planned and delivered by our Mini-Vinnies to the whole school

RECORDING:

Teachers use a **CELEBRATION OF THE WORD POWERPOINT PLANNER**, using the headings:

GATHER

LISTEN

RESPOND

GO FORTH

If the teacher is using an image or music as the focus for the sessions then a plan must be completed (***appendix 1***). All power points/ planning are stored on the Curriculum Server: Prayer & Liturgy- save in the relevant year and folder.

Prayer and Worship is central to Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of Celebration of the Word that are relevant, appropriate and give the pupils something to take away with them into their everyday life.



Celebration of the Word planner

Theme: Date:	
GATHER:	
LISTEN:	
RESPOND:	
GO FORTH:	
Worship led by:	