

Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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September 2026: Sarah Boyd

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Our Mission Statement calls every member of our school community to: "Believe and Achieve"

For Christ the King, we Believe and Achieve by...

C - Caring for Each Other

T - Trying Our Best

K - Knowing and Loving God

***We are guided by the new commandment given to us by Jesus -
"Love one another as I have loved you."***

John 13:34

At Christ the King, Worship is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Our Vision:

At Christ the King we aim to develop a caring Catholic community with Christ at its centre. Prayer and liturgy in Christ the King names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Intent:

This policy outlines the purpose and management of prayer and liturgy at Christ the King.

At Christ the King' we pray, love and learn together as one school family, with Christ at our centre. We create and experience joy every day in our home, our school and our parish. Prayer and liturgy is an integral and vital part of the daily life of our school and central to the Catholic tradition and ethos of the school.

As Catholic Christians, we are guided by the values of the Gospel and the beliefs of our own faith tradition. At the same time, we are respectful of the beliefs of others. We celebrate achievement in all aspects of school and home life - everyone is unique and a child of God.

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of Faith
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience

- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To encounter Christ in our daily lives

This policy should be read alongside the Religious Education Policy.

How Prayer and Liturgy is organised in our school:

We have a daily act of prayer and liturgy, either as a whole school, Key Stage or class group. Staff in school gather weekly for prayer and reflection as part of staff meetings and briefings. All classes have opportunities to plan and deliver prayer and liturgy across the week. Children are encouraged to plan and lead prayer times according to their age and appropriateness. Staff lead and are skilled at planning, leading and evaluating prayer to incorporate scripture, music, and seasonal themes while monitoring children to lead their own prayer.

Prayer and liturgy is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children are taught that prayer and liturgy is a period of calm reflection and praise. It is promoted as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. We encourage the children to be quiet and thoughtful- to listen, reflect and meditate upon the teachings and the signs and symbols which are used to encourage their full participation in the prayers, readings, stories, songs and hymns they hear. Children will be encouraged and guided to understand and acknowledge the purpose of gathering, listening and responding, and take forward the mission of the church.

The Weekly Word is introduced in the first whole school celebration of the week (Monday Mission Celebration) to all children and is revisited in class throughout the week. Children are recognised on a weekly basis for living out our School Mission Statement, demonstrating virtuous behaviour and living out the CTK Catholic Social Teaching principles in our Love One Another Award (Mondays). The winners of this award are shared with parents through Arbor and have site rewards. Whole site prayer is held on Fridays in the form of our Believe and Achieve Celebrations where we review the mission set for the week, share any work from children who lived out the mission, and award one child per class with the Believe and Achieve award. Children are known as CTK champions and have privileges as part of their reward. Praise and Worship takes place every Wednesday. Hymns are carefully planned to ensure they are in accordance with the church calendar and liturgical seasons. Members of the Clergy are invited to

lead liturgy and liturgical prayer throughout the year. All pupils attend Eucharistic Mass at Mother of God at least once a term. Our chaplaincy team plans, leads and evaluates a range of prayer opportunities according to the Church's calendar. Lectio Divinas, Visio Divinas and Meditations are also regularly celebrated as a class.

The Chaplaincy Team is organised into four separate groups: Prayer & Worship, Liturgy & Celebration, Mission & Charity and Welcome & Community.

Parents, Parishioners and Governors are invited to a range of prayer opportunities such as Celebrations of the Word, Adoration, Reconciliation, Inspire Workshops and Masses throughout the year.

Prayer and liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RED, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. Remembrance Day. Scripture will be the focus in most opportunities of prayer.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to the school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead prayer.

Structure and Nature of Prayer and Liturgy:

We believe that children should plan and conduct Celebrations of the Word with an increase in independence and a decrease in teacher input as pupils progress through the school. Celebrations of the Word take the following structure:

- **Gather:** How we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candle, prayer focus, crucifix, Bible)
- **Word:** Every Prayer and Liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible or Lectionary.
- **Respond:** The response hearing the Word of God may lead to symbolic action or communal prayer.
- **Mission:** Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. See Appendix 1 'Prayer and Liturgy Timetable'

Implementation:

In EYFS and KS1, children are encouraged to play a part in the planning, preparation and celebration of Acts of Worship. Year on year, children are encouraged to take on more responsibility. By the end of KS1, children should be able to name all parts of an act to worship and work in small groups to plan each section with some adult prompting and support. They will access a range of scripture which will be built on each year.

Key Stage 2: Building on previous years, children will be able to more independently plan, prepare and carry out Acts of worship. By the end of KS2, this should be with only minimal adult supervision. Children will be able to appropriately choose scripture, name a range of ways to gather, know how to respond to the scripture and name a variety of ways of taking learning forward to share with others by creating a range of appropriate 'missions'.

Our Wider School Community

Parents are informed through weekly newsletters on the topic of prayer and liturgy; ideas for families to develop their child's spirituality and shared regularly and are encouraged to follow up and have discussions at home with their children. Whenever possible, parents are warmly invited to join us in our celebrations.

We have close links with Fr John Cahill and Fr Hans and the parishes of Mother of God, Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's. We support parish events and we attend Eucharistic Masses at Mother of God as well as in school.

In Year 6, children are given the opportunity to attend a residential retreat at the Briars Centre and opportunities of prayer are an important part of the Year 3 sleepover.

Monitoring

At least once a term, the school's provision of prayer and liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils, whether participants fully engaged in prayer and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Prayer and liturgy is monitored in the form of observation, staff and pupil interview, and monitoring of the Prayer Journal books kept by every class.

The RE team have led staff training on Celebrations of the Word, Visio Divinas and they also advise and support other members of staff, liaise with our clergy and parish members.

This policy is monitored by the RE Team including the Executive Headteacher and will be evaluated and reviewed by school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix 1: Culture of Prayer and Liturgical

Appendix 2: TRADITIONAL PRAYERS INFANTS/PRAYERS JUNIORS

Traditional Prayers – EYFS

- Sign of the cross
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Responses at Mass (And with your Spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)
- Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Traditional Prayers – Year 1 and Year 2

- Sign of the cross
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Responses at Mass (And with your spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)
- Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)
- Prayers for Christmas
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory be to the Father

Traditional Prayers – Key Stage 2

- Sign of the cross
- Morning and Evening prayers
- Prayers before and after meals
- Responses at Mass (And with your spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)
- Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory be to the Father
- Come Holy Spirit
- Act of sorrow
- I confess
- Angelus
- Benedictus
- Magnificat
- Eternal Rest
- Act of love
- Act of contrition
- The Rosary

Appendix 3: Whole School Celebration of the Word

Appendix 4: Liturgy of the Mass

Appendix 5: Prayer Area Expectations CTK

Appendix 6: Celebration of the Word Planning Document

Appendix 7: Celebration of the Word Monitoring and Evaluation Document