



CHRIST the KING

Catholic Primary School and Nursery with
The Ark, a Specialist Resource



“Loving Learning Growing together as Christ’s family”

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approval level:	FGB
Date of next review	
Review cycle	Annual
Type of Policy:	Non statutory
Template Based on:	The School
Statutory Guidance	<i>Insert any link to any statutory guidance relating to the policy</i>

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on July 2025 and will be reviewed on July 2026.

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), *Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

As a Catholic family we welcome all and value Christ in everyone. We believe that Prayer and Liturgy is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our response to God's invitation, enabling us to communicate and develop our relationship with God through prayer.

At Christ the King we: Love, Learn and Grow Together as Christ's family.

Loving: God's greatest Commandment is to "Love one another as I have loved you". Our aim is to teach this value every day by the way we all treat each other as a community, so that our children leave Christ the King knowing how to love themselves and how to treat others

Learning: Christ the King is a learning environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn, develop their God given gifts to reach their full potential and be ready for the next stage of their journey.

Growing together as Christ's family: We teach our children that they are not only part of Christ the King school community, but are part of their local area and beyond. We aim for our children to see their role as part of this community and what they can do to give service to others.

2. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (*The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement*, December 2020; *Model Articles for Catholic Academies*, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)). Parents / carers and prospective parents/carers will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

3. Responsibility

(a) Governance

As a Catholic any Voluntary Aided School, the responsibility for ensuring the arrangements are in place for Prayer and Liturgy rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*;
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator);
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders;
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*;
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy;
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to;
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*;
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments;
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*;
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation;
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils;
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required;
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities;
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies;
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school;
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes;
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service (CASO) and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Aims

In light of our school mission statement, we understand the prayer and worship life of our school community to be central to all we do. Liturgical prayer is the term used to describe communal prayer within our school which follows liturgical patterns. Our programme of liturgical prayer at Christ the King aims to embed daily patterns of prayer within school life.

Through prayer and liturgy we aim to:

- Foster an understanding of what it means to belong to a community;
- Provide opportunities for enhancing spiritual growth and personal development through prayer and reflection;
- Encourage the development of a personal relationship with God;
- Provide experiences of sharing values and celebrating significant events in the lives of individuals and the community;
- develop knowledge of and experience seasons within the church's year;
- develop knowledge and understanding of scripture;
- develop and celebrate skills of creativity.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Liturgical Prayer

At Christ the King we have a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, and celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RE curriculum, feast days and other significant dates. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character, dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration, and its content.

Liturgical prayer is planned:

- To develop in pupils the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To be responsive and meaningful with emphasis on active participation.
- To engage children by using a range of different liturgical styles and approaches
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- To have scripture at its heart.

The format for liturgical prayer within our school will be:

- Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc).
- Listen – every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible or lection.
- Respond – the response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art poetry, etc).

We place our needs before God (prayers of intercession).

- Going Forth/Mission – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives, this often in the form of a challenge to complete such as remembering to be thankful or to look for God in others etc
- Short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);

The regular programme of prayer and liturgy is outlined below:

Whole School Celebration of the Word- These liturgies are held every Monday morning and led by the head teacher. They are based on the Gospel of the week, and it is the intention that, through them, the children will develop their faith and it becomes a living part of their lives. These liturgies are usually led by a member on the Senior Leadership Team.

Key Stage - These liturgies take place once a week. They are led by the Key stage leader and is an opportunity to have a greater level of interaction with the pupils. The theme links to the Gospel reading shared on Monday.

House Captain Liturgy- These liturgies take place once a month. They are led by the House Captains and the planning. Themes can include our School Values, British Values, Catholic Social Teaching or specific events taking place. The planning is overseen by the Prayer and Liturgy lead.

Daily Prayer in Classes -Each class has its own focal point for prayer within the classroom. Prayers are said regularly throughout the day, including: • Morning prayer • Grace before meals • Prayers at the end of the day. In addition to the morning, lunch and evening prayers, we also value spontaneous prayer. Each classroom has a special prayer space that reflects the current topic and the liturgical season. The prayer areas are intended to support pupils in their communication with God and allow them to initiate their own prayers whilst providing a thought provoking and attractive focus.

Class Liturgy- This takes place twice weekly. The format is similar across all Key Stages. However, as children move through the school their involvement in the planning and delivery of these sessions becomes greater. This is outlined in the school Prayer and Liturgy progression document.

Celebration Liturgy-

Liturgical Singing- St. Augustine recognised the profound connection between singing and a heightened form of prayer, noting that “he who sings praise, not only praises, but also loves Him whom he is singing about/to/for.” So, when we lift our voices in song, we’re not just following a ritual or performing a tradition, we’re engaging in an act of love, a deeper form of prayer. At Christ the King we embrace this and try to include music as much as possible in any prayer, Celebration of the Word or liturgical gathering. We have Key Stage Hymn practice once a month to

Celebration of the Eucharist - We believe that the Mass is the ultimate expression of our existence as a faith community and it therefore takes a central part in school life. Whole school masses are held in the parish church at the beginning of each full term and on special Feast Days and Holy Days. Each year group celebrates a class mass during the year, which is an opportunity for the children’s families and the wider community to join in faith together. As with class liturgy, the level of planning and involvement in the Mass grows with each year group going up through the school.

Sacrament of Reconciliation- In Key Stage 1, children have time in class to reflect and say sorry to God. In Key Stage 2, emphasis is placed upon the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Parish Priest facilitates this within our school hall, building an understanding of the Sacrament in a familiar, comfortable setting for the children.

Special Times in the Year - As a school we recognise that there are special times within our Catholic tradition that we focus on specific prayers. During May and October, Our Lady and the Rosary are a special focus. The liturgical year is marked with Masses on Holydays of Obligation (Solemnities) wherever possible. Other key points in the liturgical year are marked through special liturgical celebrations and prayer services. During Advent and Lent, prayer stations are set up by each class to help the wider school prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas during Advent, and to reflect on His Passion during Lent and Jesus’s Resurrection

Prayerful Settings - Prayer, Celebrations of the Word and Liturgies occur in the school hall We, at Christ the King are blessed to have a spiritual garden to help inspire children to be closer to God, our creator.

Traditional Prayers of the Church - Knowing prayers by heart is a gift for life so staff also plan opportunities for pupils to learn formal prayers. These are introduced early in a child's school journey so that they gradually become familiar with their words and meaning. These prayers are introduced at key points and are integral to the planned RE curriculum. The table below contains the common prayers as outlined in the *Prayers and Liturgy Directory*.

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	• The Sign of the Cross • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory be • Grace before meals • Grace after meals	• The Apostles' Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	• Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

6. Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

8. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.