# Christ The King R.C. Primary School

# Prayer & Liturgy Policy

**Policy Reviewed by: S Miles, Full Governing Body**
**Date: 22.01.24**

**Review Date: Jan 2026**

**Article 14 : Every child has the right to freedom of thought , conscience and religion**

## Introduction

## Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

*In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 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.*

***Definition of Terms***

*Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.*

**Prayer** **Liturgical Prayer** **Liturgy**



Christian meditation Service of the Word Sacraments:

Prayer before meals Assembly Mass

Penance

Liturgy of Hours

Devotions Benediction

| Prayer | Liturgical Prayer | Liturgy |
|---|---|---|
| Simple structure | Structured (often 4 part) | Taken from official books |
| One or two elements | Elements drawn from liturgy | Complex structure |
| Balance of familiarity & creativity | Places of Scripture | Many elements |
| | Contrasts and creativity | Range of ministry |

*In Catholic terminology 'worship' is not generally used to name and describe a distinct type of prayer or event. Worship is about living our lives in a way that recognises that everything we have is a gift from God and that everything we do gives glory to God. That, of course, does include prayer but the scope is broader. With that understanding of worship it will be seen that that the purpose of education in a Catholic school is to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of all pupils to the wonder of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow from this.*

Under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005 there is a statutory duty to inspect and report on denominal education (that is religious education) and collective worship in schools designated as having a religious character. For this reason, the term 'Collective Worship' has been kept as the headline judgement by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate but throughout the framework it is referred to as prayer and liturgy. This policy addresses the shift in vocabulary and is an interim response to the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. The Prayer and Liturgy Directory has been published but will not become statutory until Sep 2025, it contains a model policy which can be adopted by schools.

# Christ The King R.C. Primary School

# Prayer and Liturgy Policy

**Mission Statement**

## *Learning to love - Loving to learn*

***We are:***

**A worshipping community** that holds and celebrates Christ as the centre of its faith and life.
**A learning community** that values and fosters learning for the whole community.
**A respecting community** that follows the teaching of Christ to love our neighbour as ourselves.
**A welcoming community** that recognises and welcomes the presence of Christ through our respect and love for one another.
**A serving community** that enables its pupils to serve each other, their families and wider world.
*Our mission is to develop this vision by:*
**Worshipping:**

- Celebrating through participation in prayer, reflection and worship so that our community feels inspired, rewarded and challenged in its faith journey.
- Giving our children hope for their future through an understanding that they are unique and that God loves them for who they are and who they will become.

**Learning:**

- Enabling our children to become confident, skilled, enthusiastic lifelong learners.
- Developing thoughtful, questioning, creative and collaborative attitudes to learning.

**Respecting:**

- Fostering respect for all people, celebrating the wonder of God's creation and understanding the need to share our planet with all in sustainable ways.
- Respecting the unique God-given gifts that each member of the school community has to offer and promoting fairness, care and courtesy.

**Welcoming:**

- Instilling a culture of inclusivity, encompassing our pupils, parents and the wider community.
- Nurturing a sense of honesty, openness and self-worth in ourselves and others.

**Serving:**

- Encouraging our children to serve each other through friendship, kindness and sharing in work and play.

Developing an awareness of the role of our school within our parishes and the wider community

**The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.
'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.'[1]

**Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered for all pupils.[2] This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single 'act of worship' for all pupils, or separate 'acts of worship' in school groups. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

The 'act of worship' is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

**The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Christ the King R.C. Primary School**
Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to as well as expressive of the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:
- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

**The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**
Prayer and liturgy in Christ The King R.C. Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:
- To give praise and thanks to God
- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

[1] Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005
[2] Section 70 (1) of the school Standards and Framework Act 1998

**Principles**
All acts of prayer in Christ the King R.C. Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.[2] Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

**Planning, content and celebration**
Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Remembrance Day . Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.
The prayer life of the school introduces and celebrates a range of 'ways of praying', and includes 'Christian Meditation' and the 'Examen'; it makes use of the Diocesan 'Prayer Toolkit' to enhance provision, as set out in Diocesan Expectations.
A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

The Christ The King R.C. Primary School staff prayer is shared at the start of each staff meeting.

**Prayer, Liturgy and Assembly Timetable**
**Monday**: Whole School Collective Worship
**Tuesday**: Class Worship
**Wednesday**: KS1 Liturgy and KS2 Liturgy
**Thursday**: Class Worship
**Friday**: Whole School Celebration Assembly (including prayer)
First Friday Prayer on the first Friday of each month for staff , governors and parents.

**Leading Prayer and Liturgy**
As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy. Senior Staff will plan and lead Key Stage prayer and liturgy, class teachers will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**
At least once a year the provision of Prayer & Liturgy will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading Prayer and Liturgy.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

**Resources**
Each class has fabrics for all seasons of the liturgical year and age appropriate Bibles. Other resources are available in a central store.

[2] Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

**The learning environment**

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment' [3]

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See/RED topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

**Other opportunities**

**Parish Mass**

In the Autumn , Spring and Summer terms a Parish Mass is led by Christ The King pupils . Over the course of each term Years 4,5 and 6 lead a Mass each. In the Summer term Year 3 will also lead a Mass once they have made their First Holy Communion.

Christ The King Feast Day Mass : Christ The King Parish

Corpus Christi Mass : St Teilo's Parish

**Eucharist**

'The Mass, also known as the celebration of the Eucharist, is the most important action of the Church and from its celebration the life of the Church flows. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes the Eucharist as 'the source and summit of the Christian life' (CCC1324). It is important therefore that the Mass is valued as a privileged expression of the Prayer and Liturgy of the school community and is therefore celebrated regularly (in accordance with Diocesan Expectations), when this is possible. Eg:

Welcome Mass

Advent Mass

Feast of St Peter and St Paul

End of Year Mass

**The Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

Mrs Helen Keegan is the Coordinator for RE and Prayer and Liturgy.

*(A model job description is also included in Appendix 1.)*

**Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

[3] Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Appendix 1

## The Role of the Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

**Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

**Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

**Professional development/Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

**Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including prayer bags, visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently