



Christ the King
Catholic Voluntary Academy

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

"To love God more dearly..."

Last Review: July 2025

Next Review: January 2027



Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the best education and care for all in a living faith community. Prayer and liturgy are foundational to this. They ensure that care is spiritual as well as pastoral, that education is rooted in Christ, and that our faith community is alive, joyful, and responsive to the presence of God.

We believe every student should have the opportunity to grow closer to Christ through regular, meaningful opportunities for prayer, reflection and celebration of the sacraments, in partnership with home and parish.

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)*

Rationale

Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of a Catholic school. As outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (2023), they are the privileged places of encounter with Christ and the source of spiritual nourishment for our school community. They express our shared faith, shape our moral vision, and strengthen our commitment to serve the common good. At Christ the King, we provide a liturgical life that is faithful to the teachings of the Church, deeply rooted in scripture, and accessible to all.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- **Encourage Encounter** – Facilitate genuine opportunities for pupils and staff to meet Christ in prayer, silence, scripture, and the Sacraments.
- **Develop Liturgical Literacy** – Enable all members of the school community to understand and participate in Catholic liturgical life.
- **Foster Belonging and Participation** – Build an inclusive and joyful worshipping community in which everyone feels they have a role.
- **Support Spiritual Growth** – Provide formation that enables students to grow in their personal prayer life and faith journey.
- **Promote Mission and Witness** – Ensure that prayer leads to action in service of others and to the building of the Kingdom of God in the school and beyond.
- **Strengthen the Parish–School–Home Relationship** – Collaborate actively with local parishes and engage parents as partners in their child's spiritual development.

Core Principles

1. **Encounter** - Prayer and liturgy are sacred moments in which we encounter the living God. We seek to help young people experience the presence of Jesus Christ in ways that are authentic, transformative, and life-giving.
2. **Formation** - Pupils are explicitly taught how to pray, why we pray, and how the liturgy functions within the life of the Church. This is delivered through Religious Education, tutor time, assemblies, chaplaincy input, and experience.
3. **Participation** - Worship is planned and led collaboratively by pupils, chaplains, staff, and clergy. Pupil leadership is encouraged, particularly through form liturgies, assemblies, and the chaplaincy team.
4. **Mission** - Prayer flows into action. Our faith is expressed in service, charity, justice, and peacemaking. Every act of liturgy ends with a renewed call to live out the Gospel in our daily lives.



5. Partnership - We are committed to strong and visible links with our parishes and to nurturing faith at home. Prayer and liturgy extend beyond the classroom, touching parish and family life.

Daily Prayer and the Liturgical Year

All pupils and staff engage in prayer every day.

The rhythm of prayer is structured according to the liturgical year, rooted in scripture, and supported by the chaplaincy team.

- Structured daily prayer is built into tutor time, using resources linked to the liturgical calendar.
- Visual prompts and prayer corners are maintained in every classroom and communal area.
- A tutor prayer book is provided to every form group, with weekly chaplaincy support.
- A weekly prayer focus is shared with staff to ensure consistency across the school.

Parents are regularly encouraged to mirror this rhythm of prayer at home through newsletters, seasonal resources, and shared reflections.

Liturgical Celebrations and Sacramental Life

We mark the Church's seasons and feasts with reverence and joy:

- Each liturgical season is visibly marked in displays and prayer resources.
- Pupils are actively involved in preparing and leading seasonal liturgies.
- The Feast of Christ the King is celebrated annually in our local parishes.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation and voluntary Mass is celebrated on the first Friday of every month
- Liturgies of the Word, particularly in Advent, Lent, and during times of national need or remembrance
- Eucharistic Adoration, particularly during key liturgical seasons
- The school chapel is open daily and Adoration is offered periodically.

We warmly invite parents and parishioners to attend and participate in school liturgies, especially major feast days and Holy Days of Obligation. Information about these is shared in advance via the school website and newsletters.

Chaplaincy and Faith Leadership

- A lay chaplain coordinates liturgical life and supports staff.
- Student Chaplaincy Teams are trained to lead and support worship.
- Works in close collaboration with local clergy, especially our parish priests
- Lay Chaplains support the Chaplaincy Team to lead form prayer and liturgies, and represent the school at parish events
- Supports RE and PHSE with prayer and reflection resources
- Staff training on prayer and liturgy is delivered during INSET and CPD.
- Liturgies are evaluated using pupil and staff voice.

Retreats, Pilgrimages, and Faith Enrichment

We believe that time away from the classroom supports deep reflection and encounter. This means that we encourage students to have the opportunity to take part in retreats and faith enrichment opportunities.



This includes:

- Annual retreats (on-site or external) for every year group
- Sixth Form leadership and discernment days
- Opportunities to attend The Briars, and diocesan and national events e.g. Flame
- Pilgrimages such as Lourdes are offered where possible

Engaging Families and the Wider Parish

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children in faith. Therefore, we:

- Invite families to join us for our voluntary Masses
- Share prayer resources and seasonal liturgical reflections for home use
- Publish regular updates about prayer and liturgy in newsletters and on the website and social media platforms
- Offer family-friendly services during Advent and Lent, sometimes in collaboration with local parishes
- Partner with clergy to ensure seamless connection between parish sacramental life and the school community
- We are part of a Catholic family of faith, and we actively promote participation in parish life and Sunday Mass through chaplaincy messages, notices and pastoral conversations.
- Clergy are consulted in liturgical planning and support Catholic Life governance.

Inclusion and Accessibility

We affirm the dignity and worth of every pupil, regardless of background or ability. We ensure:

- Liturgies are accessible for pupils with SEND through thoughtful planning and differentiation
- Clear explanations of Catholic traditions for pupils of other faiths or no faith
- A welcoming and respectful atmosphere where all are invited, never pressured, to participate
- A pastoral response that honours the unique spiritual journey of each young person
- Student voice group contributes to review and improvement.

Strategic Planning

As a Catholic school, we commit to embedding prayer, worship, and liturgical celebrations into the daily life of our community. We produce an Annual Plan of Provision (APoP) that outlines the key events and provisions for the academic year in accordance with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. The APoP serves as a structured plan for ensuring the spiritual development of our school community. Through prayer, liturgy, and faith-based activities, we strive to create an environment where faith is lived and celebrated.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We continuously strive for excellence and faithfulness in our prayer and liturgy:

- Regular review of form prayer and school liturgies by chaplaincy and SLT
- Collection of pupil and staff voice to guide development
- Governor oversight through the Catholic Life and Mission Monitoring Visits
- Preparation for Catholic School inspection and Trust DPS visits
- Training and formation offered to all staff
- Governors receive reports on Catholic Life.



Conclusion

At Christ the King, prayer and liturgy are not just events – they are expressions of who we are. Rooted in Christ and His Church, we strive to offer every child the opportunity to grow in faith, encounter Jesus, and love God more dearly. Through worship, partnership with parents and parishes, and a culture of prayerful reverence, we joyfully live out our Catholic mission.