



# Prayer & Liturgy Policy

## To Love You More Dearly

<b>Policy Leader</b>	<b>Mrs C Jones</b>
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<b>Date to Review</b>	<b>Annually</b>



## **PRAYER & LITURGY POLICY FOR 2026**

### **Mission Statement**

*“Love one another as I have loved you” (John, 15)*

We believe that Jesus Christ and his Gospel Call – to love God and all people – are at the heart of what we do.

He inspires us, as children of God, to uphold the dignity of each individual.

We strive to develop a community in Christ which fully supports all in achieving their potential – spiritually, academically and personally.

## **Rationale**

Prayer and Liturgy at Christ the King Catholic High School provide opportunities for students and staff to come together as a community to encounter God through prayer and worship.

Taking part in daily prayer and liturgy helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the core values and symbols of Christianity.

Prayer and Liturgy reflect the traditions of the Catholic Church and are rooted in the life, mission, and liturgical year of the Church, taking into account the spiritual, educational and pastoral needs of all who share in them. Prayer and Liturgy are a defining part of our school's distinctive Catholic character.

Prayer and Liturgy are more than a statutory requirement at Christ the King Catholic High School; they are integral to the life and identity of the school. Through shared prayer, reflection and celebration, all members of the school community are invited to participate, contribute, and grow in faith.

This approach aligns with guidance from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (*To Love You More Dearly*), which emphasises that prayer and liturgy are central to the spiritual life of the school and support the moral, spiritual, and pastoral development of all members of the community.

## **Legal Requirements**

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act and the DfE Circular 1/94, prayer and liturgy at Christ the King Catholic High School provide opportunities for students and staff to come together as a community through daily worship in the classroom, participation in assemblies, liturgical celebrations, and the celebration of Mass.

All acts of prayer and liturgy follow the Church's liturgical calendar to ensure meaningful engagement with the seasons and feast days,

As part of the Mater Ecclesiae Multi-Academy Trust, responsibility for ensuring prayer and liturgy takes place rests with the Local Governing Body, following consultation with the Headteacher. This ensures that all acts of prayer and liturgy are consistent with the Catholic character of the school and the principles of the Trust.

Parents of students up to Year 11 have the right to withdraw their child from acts of prayer and liturgy. While the school respects this right, we encourage all members of our community to participate, as prayer and liturgy are central to the life and Catholic identity of Christ the King Catholic High School.

## **Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

At Christ the King Catholic High School, the aims of prayer and liturgy are to:

1. **Provide opportunities for students and staff to encounter Christ** – for example, through daily classroom prayers, reflections at the start of lessons, and participating in Mass or liturgical assemblies.
2. **Support the spiritual, moral, educational, and pastoral development** – for example, reflecting on Gospel stories, exploring Catholic social teaching, or discussing how faith can guide everyday choices.
3. **Foster a sense of community cohesion** – for example, coming together as a year group to pray, singing together, or participating in shared liturgical celebrations.

4. **Deepen understanding of the Catholic faith and tradition** – for example, learning about Church seasons such as Advent and Lent, exploring the meaning of symbols, or engaging with scripture readings.
5. **Encourage active participation, reflection, and leadership** – for example, inviting students to lead prayers or participate in assemblies when opportunities arise
6. **Enable students to live out the school's mission and values** – for example, showing kindness and service in everyday life, reflecting on the impact of their choices, and linking prayer to action in school and the wider community.

*These aims reflect the principles set out in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (To Love You More Dearly), highlighting how prayer and liturgy support spiritual development, community cohesion, and active participation in the life of the Church.*

### **Prayer and Liturgy Routine**

At Christ the King Catholic High School, daily prayer and liturgy are an integral part of school life. They are **planned and supported through the school's dedicated Prayer and Liturgy page on Teams**, which provides activities and resources for staff to deliver meaningful opportunities for students to encounter God, reflect on their faith, and live out the values of THE CTK WAY.

Day	Theme	Purpose
Monday	Quiet Mind	Students experience a period of calm and quiet to contemplate the week ahead. This encourages personal reflection and an awareness of God's presence in their lives.
Tuesday	Scripture focus	Students engage with a Gospel or other Bible reading. House Tutors support reflection and discussion to help students relate scripture to their own lives
Wednesday	Scripture focus – THE CTK WAY	Students explore the Gospel or Bible reading and pray together, using guidance and resources provided on Prayer and Liturgy Page
Thursday	Catholic Prayer focus	Students participate in traditional Catholic prayers (Hail Mary, Our Father, etc.), linking the weekly theme to THE CTK WAY.
Friday	School Prayer	Students pray the school prayer together. A virtual candle may be lit for intentions, encouraging communal intercession and reflection.

This routine:

- Provides **daily structured opportunities** for personal and communal prayer.
- Includes a **variety of prayer forms**, supporting reflection, scripture engagement, and liturgical participation.
- Is **flexible** to respond to liturgical seasons, special celebrations, or school priorities.
- Ensuring activities support the school's Catholic identity and the spiritual, moral, and pastoral development of students.

These practices are guided by the principles in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (To Love You More Dearly), which emphasises the importance of planning, reflection, and participation in prayer and liturgy as part of a Catholic school's distinctive character.

### **Guidelines for Prayer and Liturgy**

At Christ the King Catholic High School, all students are expected to have **regular opportunities to participate in acts of prayer and liturgy**. These may take place in form groups, assemblies, classrooms, or larger liturgical celebrations.

To facilitate **meaningful and reverent experiences**, the following guidelines support the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy:

- **Planning and Resources:** Staff can access planned activities and guidance via the school's **dedicated Prayer and Liturgy page on Teams**. These resources provide suggested prayers, scripture reflections, music, and focus points for each week.
- **Liturgical Alignment:** Themes and readings are drawn from the **Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church**, ensuring prayer and liturgy reflect key feast days, seasons, and Gospel messages.
- **Participation:** Students are encouraged to participate in reflection, readings, prayers, and assemblies. Opportunities are provided for involvement in acts of worship, including form Masses and special celebrations.
- **Consistency and Flexibility:** Daily acts of prayer and liturgy take place across the school day and week. They allow for flexibility while ensuring regular spiritual engagement, including quiet reflection, scripture focus sessions, traditional prayers and intention-led reflections.
- **Support for Staff:** Staff are provided with weekly suggestions, guidance, and resources to confidently lead prayer and liturgy. These include prompts for reflection and optional discussion questions to engage students.

All practice aligns with the principles outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (To Love You More Dearly), emphasising the importance of planning, reflection, and active participation in acts of prayer and liturgy as part of the school's distinctive Catholic character.

### **Opportunities for Collective Worship Throughout the School Year**

At Christ the King Catholic High School, students have **regular opportunities to participate in collective worship** across the school year. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Welcome Masses** to begin the academic year, celebrating the school community.
- **House and Year Group Assemblies**, providing opportunities for reflection, prayer, and engagement with scripture.
- **Advent and Lenten Services**, fostering links with partner schools and encouraging collective reflection on the liturgical seasons.

- **Whole School Masses and Celebrations**, including the Feast of Christ the King, Christmas, and Easter, to celebrate key events in the Church's year.
- **Special Assemblies and Services**, which may mark other significant feast days, celebrations, or events linked to the school's mission and Catholic character.
- **Chapel Rota**- Each form group has a scheduled opportunity to access the school chapel for a reflective or prayerful activity, ensuring that all students experience quiet reflection in a sacred space during the academic year.

### **Expectations for Prayer and Liturgy**

At Christ the King Catholic High School, all adults, whatever their personal religious affiliation, can contribute to the school's spiritual life. Each member of staff can draw on their unique experiences and talents to enhance the preparation and celebration of prayer and liturgy, helping to create a welcoming and reflective environment for all students.

In classrooms, staff facilitate prayer and liturgy, guiding students to participate *meaningfully* in a variety of forms of prayer and reflection. Through these experiences, students are encouraged to grow in faith and develop their understanding of Catholic tradition. Staff also provide opportunities for students to organise, lead, and reflect on acts of prayer and liturgy, collaborating with colleagues to ensure that practice reflects best principles and the distinctive Catholic character of the school.

During the celebration of Mass, staff form part of the one 'liturgical assembly' with students. Their active participation — through body language, engagement, and response — goes beyond roles of discipline and supervision, providing a living model of faith and shared worship for students.

This approach ensures that all members of the school community contribute positively to the spiritual life of Christ the King Catholic High School, in line with the principles outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (*To Love You More Dearly*).

### **Future Developments for Prayer and Liturgy**

Christ the King Catholic High School is committed to continually developing opportunities for prayer, reflection, and active participation.

Planned developments include:

- **Dedicated Prayer Space:** Students can write intentions, reflect quietly, and engage with resources such as LED candles. This will be introduced in a future academic year.
- **Existing Initiatives:** Saints in Service Chaplaincy Group, Laudato Si' Eco Group, and Catholic social action projects such as the BIG Lent Walk for CAFOD and Foodbank donations provide meaningful opportunities for students to lead, participate, and reflect.
- **Staff Prayer and Reflection:** A weekly Thursday morning prayer group, including reflection on liturgical calendar intentions (e.g., November Novena) and participation in the Rosary during October.

These initiatives are continually reviewed and developed to ensure engagement, inclusivity, and relevance to the school community. Together, they broaden the variety of prayer and liturgy experiences and strengthen participation across the school, reflecting the school's distinctive Catholic character.

### **Inclusion and Accessibility**

Prayer and Liturgy at Christ the King Catholic High School is inclusive and welcoming to all, whatever their personal faith or background. All students and staff are encouraged to participate to the extent they feel comfortable. Activities are guided by the Church's liturgical calendar, providing opportunities to celebrate Advent, Lent, Easter, and significant feast days. Themes, scripture readings, and reflections are adapted for age and understanding, helping students connect faith, reflection, and daily life.

## THE CTK WAY

Rooted in Ignatian values, Collective Worship at Christ the King Catholic High School is underpinned by THE CTK WAY. This is the way that the mission focus of the school is realised. The virtues that support students in living out the mission of the school are detailed below. Students are rewarded for fulfilling this mission.

<b>TEAM PLAYERS</b> <i>Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing talents</li> <li>• Excellent group work</li> <li>• Club participation</li> <li>• Primary Event</li> <li>• Reading Buddies</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>HOUSE PROUD</b> <i>Curious about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took part in House activity</li> <li>• Supported Tutor Group</li> <li>• Stood for Student Council Election</li> <li>• Applied to be a Prefect</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>ENGAGED</b> <i>Attentive to their experience and to their vocation; and discerning about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made the right choice</li> <li>• Full weeks attendance and punctuality</li> <li>• Planner signed</li> <li>• Equipment</li> </ul>
<b>CONSCIOUS</b> <i>Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and prophetic in the example they set to others.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped a younger student</li> <li>• Recycling/Reusing</li> <li>• Picked up litter</li> <li>• Being a good steward</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>TRUTHFUL</b> <i>Eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expressed opinion in a controlled manner</li> <li>• Share voice through speech, art, dance, drama</li> <li>• WE Charity event</li> <li>• Being a good citizen</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>KIND</b> <i>Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out charity work</li> <li>• Made someone feel welcome</li> <li>• Sharing</li> <li>• Thoughtful</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
<b>WORSHIP</b> <i>Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation in Mass</li> <li>• Led Prayer and Worship for Tutor Group</li> <li>• Faith in Action</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>ACADEMIC</b> <i>Learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways they use their learning for the common good.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attainment in classwork</li> <li>• Attainment in homework</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<b>YOUNG LEADERS</b> <i>Inspiring others to be the best version of themselves</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using initiative</li> <li>• Prefect</li> <li>• Student Councillor</li> <li>• Sports Captain</li> </ul>