

Worship Policy

Christ the King RC Primary School



Mission Statement

Our school exists to serve the parish of Holy Trinity, working together for the development of our children with the love of God as our central focus.

Together as God's children, we wonder, believe, shine and achieve.

We are unique individuals and our talents and gifts are nurtured in a caring family environment. God loves us and through His love, we help each other to make a difference in the world we live in.

*Together we **Wonder**, Together we **Believe**,*

*Together we **Shine**, Together we **Achieve**.*

Our Mission Statement is at the heart of everything we do at Christ the King. We wonder about Scripture, we believe in Christ Jesus, we shine through our continuous love in action and we achieve great things as one family.

Introduction

We recognise that each individual at Christ the King is on a personal journey of faith. Participation in worship and opportunities for prayer are essential for spiritual development and for deepening our relationship with God.

We believe that prayer and worship in our school 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 with Him. We therefore seek to ensure that collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Aims

Develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration whilst becoming more aware of the 'big questions' of life.

Understand the importance of prayer and worship in daily living and how it helps us to grow in our relationships with God and with others.

Experience prayer and worship to give them a real sense of being valued members of their Catholic community.

Distinguish between the different opportunities for prayer and worship and to celebrate together the feasts and seasons of the Christian calendar, with particular emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

Have opportunities for worship, and to use prayer and worship as a form of celebration.

Prayers

At Christ the King, children are encouraged to develop their individual prayer life through daily participation in our formal prayers such as our school prayer, morning prayer, grace before meals and end of the day prayer. It is important that we enable pupils to participate in

the community of the Church through learning our traditional Church prayers. Formal prayers, appropriate to the age and maturity of the year group, are taught through the RE curriculum and practised in worship.

Morning Prayer

Oh my God I give to you, all that I think or say or do, all my work and all my happy play I will give to you today, Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer

Bless us oh Lord as we sit together, bless the food we eat today, bless the hands that make the food, bless us oh Lord, Amen.

End of the Day Prayer

God our Father I come to say, thank you for your love today, thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me, guard me in the dark of night, and in the morning send your light, Amen.

Organisation of Worship in School

At Christ the King, classes gather for worship throughout the week.

Daily prayers are said in class at the beginning of the day, before lunch and at the end of the day. As a whole school, we gather for assembly every Monday morning, where we hear the words of the week's Gospel and reflect on them as a school family. As part of this assembly, we also celebrate the children's achievements within our 'Stars of the Week'. We gather in class or key stage families each week for liturgy, following a sequence of gather, listen, respond and go forth. In addition to this, we gather as a school family regularly at Mass. Depending on the occasion, we alternate whole school masses between our local parish church and our school hall. Classes also hold masses where parishioners and parents are invited into share in worship.

GIFT Team

GIFT stands for 'Growing in Faith Together', which is exactly what these pupils do. Each year, between 8-12 pupils step forward to become a part of this prestigious team. The GIFT Team is designed to give the children more ownership and understanding of their faith and help others to grow in their faith too. Our group of pupil volunteers work with the staff to prepare for, plan and celebrate school liturgies and whole school masses. They hold a drop-in session on Wednesday lunchtime called 'Wednesday Worship' where groups of children from Y3-Y5 spend time worshipping together. For example, during the month of October, they share in the rosary and during Advent and Lent they design liturgies based on preparation.

In Advent, the GIFT Team lead 'Advent stations' for the whole school where children from Nursery-Y6 worship in class families and learn more about Advent preparation. Likewise, in Lent, the GIFT Team lead 'Lent stations' where we share the Stations of the Cross in class families.

Advent and Lent bags are also given out by the GIFT Team, which are sent home with individual children to encourage worship at home with families.

The GIFT Team work on a regular basis with other local Catholic primary schools, they represent the school at local and diocesan events and share ideas and experiences with one another.

Sacramental Programme

In school, we use the Sacramental celebrations of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion as a focus for worship. Prayer and assemblies are used to pray for the children who are involved in the programme. It is also a reminder to other children about the importance and relevance of the Sacraments. Children and parents attend meetings in school and at church as part of the Sacramental Programme. They also complete work in class as part of their preparation. Catechists work with the children at the training sessions and offer their prayers and support.

Inclusion/Equality

The fair and equal treatment of all individuals irrelevant of race, creed, disability or gender, are integral to the Gospels' Revelations and the Church's message and is central to our school mission statement. All children are given equal access to the Religious Education curriculum, promoting their understanding to their full potential.

A variety of prayer and worship activities are used to try to meet all children's different needs, e.g. whole School, whole class, group, pair and individual prayer, also different styles of prayer from formal liturgies to private reflective prayer.