

Our School and Church Relationship

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace, in its various forms, 1 Peter 4:10

Worship

- Our daily collective worship is central to the life of our school. It reaffirms, strengthens and practises our core Christian values of **love** and **service** and celebrates each unique member of the school community as made in the image of God; recognising the individual gifts each has to offer.
- We have a wide range of worship activities which aim to prepare pupils for a life of worship and enables them to use their gifts to participate in worship both collectively and individually e.g servers, stewards, worship leaders, Bible club, gospel choir, choral choir, worship reflection, reading prayers, reading scripture.
- A hugely important aspect of our relationship with the Church and our school tradition is for pupils, staff and parents to celebrate Mass together twice a week. This is led by Father Richard, our parish priest
- All staff are invited to attend Mass on the first inset day of the year when Father Richard welcomes everyone and prays for the year to come. We believe this is the foundation for the year and a way to encourage staff to develop their own faith
- We have strong relationships with other local Churches including St Thomas the Apostle Hanwell, St Matthews Ealing Common, St Barnabas Pitshanger Lane and pupils have contributed to their own Sunday worship
- Currently, all staff and pupils in the school attend and participate in our collective worship including our weekly Mass. This demonstrates the inclusive nature of our worship and the importance all members of our community place on worshipping together

Prayer

We have many opportunities for prayer including times of silence, stillness and reflection

- Our CtS Prayer Group meets once a month. This is a place where members of the school community can find spiritual encouragement and sustenance as well as join in praying for the life and work of our school community. The group is organised by a parent and a local licensed Lay Minister. All members of the community are welcome to attend or send in prayer requests.
- A drop-in lunchtime club run by IPC Church for Broadway Site pupils provides an opportunity to hear exciting stories and pray together
- Pupils of all ages contribute to worship through reading and writing prayers for our twice weekly Mass; praying for the school, the Church and the wider community
- Quiet, communal spaces in the school provide an environment that promotes space to reflect, think and wonder

Rooted in our Christian foundation,
we are an **aspirational** community
loving and **serving** God. We seek to
recognise and develop our unique
gifts in accordance with the biblical
principles of inclusiveness, tolerance
and love, preparing children to be
educated citizens in a global world.

Choirs and Special worship

We have a tradition of establishing very strong choirs at the school with 4 thriving choral choirs and a gospel choir. Pupil participation in the choice of hymns has added further to the enjoyment of worship and our collective singing and the weekly [reflection on a hymn](#) (linked to the vision or liturgical calendar) further deepens our understanding of the Bible stories.

Opportunities to worship outside school are encouraged for example attendance at Prom Praise, LDBS service of celebration at St Paul's Cathedral, carols at Pitshanger Park for the local community. We also love planning special worship events at school along with the Church such as our Christ the King Festival mass involving a procession with banners for all the community, Ash Wednesday, Prize Day services, Nativity concerts

Church Impact on our Community

At CtS our Church supports and encourages our community to use their gifts to serve others...

- We have worked together (parents, staff and Church) to get generous donations from the local community including shops, market stalls, home baked products to deliver to families in need
- This work carried on with the creation of a foodbank open to families from the school, Church and wider community with books and toys being delivered to other local schools as well
- Running the foodbank from the Church Hall enabled families to visit discreetly and offered them the opportunity to speak to a member of staff, clergy or Churchwarden in a safe and confidential place
- Successful Joint application to Ealing Deanery Mission Fund between school and Church (Mothers Union) following a 'listening exercise' around the impact of Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter. The aim improve racial awareness and interaction and a joint Mothers Union/ School visit to the Migration Museum has been planned for the Summer Term tying in to the Year 6 unit on the Windrush
- Pupils work hard to keep the Church and the surrounding area tidy and well maintained through weekly tasks after mass as well as regular upkeep of the Church yard and gardens