



ST GEORGE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Version:	1
Date created/updated:	September 2025
Ratified by:	LGB
Date ratified:	October 2025
Date issued:	October 2025
Policy Review Date:	October 2026
Post Holder Responsible for Review:	RE Lead

Commitment to Equality:

We as a Catholic Primary School are committed to provide a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Prayer and Liturgy Policy has been approved and adopted by St. George's Catholic Primary School October 2025.

Signed by the Chair of the Local Governing Body for St. George's School

Canon John Batthula

Date of signing

Signed by the Principal for St George's Catholic Primary School:

Miss Cairns

Date of signing

School Mission Statement

At St George's Catholic Primary School we Achieve, Believe and Care to fulfil Jesus' exhortation to "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34-35

We will strive to ensure that the members of our community are happy and fulfilled in their lives at school.

Vision:

St. George's Catholic Primary school is a Christian community where the Catholic faith is not only taught, but also nurtured in the daily life of school. This faith, we uphold, should underline every relationship so that all are respected and loved as children of God.

We have high expectations for the children in our care and aim to encourage them to learn, develop and grow into responsible, caring adults within a climate of respect, warmth and understanding.

As a Catholic community of pupils, parents, staff and parish we work together to create an environment that enables our children to realise their potential and to confidently grow into fulfilled and rounded adults who will make a worthy contribution to the world in which we live.

Curriculum:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school follows the Archdiocese of Birmingham's "Learning and Growing as the People of God" Curriculum Strategy.

The faith experience of all children is supported by beginning with their real life experiences, leading them to reflect upon and consider the Christian message in all its richness.



We are a Catholic School that seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ. We promote these values by our words and deeds, and therefore, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of our school's activities.

We provide a Catholic Curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (Genesis 1: 27).

Our Curriculum is designed to enable every pupil to discern their vocation and to be well-equipped to follow it as active citizens in service to the world. Catholic Religious Education is the 'core of the core curriculum' (Pope St John Paul II) and the foundation of the entire educational process.

We also provide a range of extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral support.

When planning RE lessons we use the Diocesan scheme of work, **Learning and Growing as the People of God**'.

10% of Curriculum time is devoted to the teaching of RE. Two weeks within the year are dedicated to the study of other faiths.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham requires St George's Catholic School to teach "Learning and growing as people of God".

Legal Requirements

The legal requirement is that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement.

We also acknowledge that prayer and liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering. At St George's, responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy rests with the governing body after consultation with the Principal.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Prayer and liturgy in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Prayer and liturgy

We believe that prayer and liturgy in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- contemplate the mystery of God;
- unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;
- develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.
- meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened;

Full participation in our faith will allow us:-

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;

- To develop the skills of prayer and our responses to it and being inspired into action, in line with our mission statement;
- To develop the skills to plan and lead our own acts of Liturgy.

What is Prayer and

Liturgy? What is Prayer?

Prayer is conversation with God, the angels and the saints. Prayer should be experienced as a living relationship with God, in and through Jesus Christ. All forms of prayer are God's gift.

What is Liturgy?

Liturgy is a communal act in which we praise and worship God. Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives.

All good liturgies involve the telling of the story of Christ and his Church. Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell-as guided by the Holy Spirit.

4. The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School and

Community 4.1 Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

An Act of Collective Worship, appropriate for the liturgical season, takes place each day and can be celebrated as a whole school, key stage or class.

Collective Worship throughout the week is usually organised as follows:
Monday SLT/Class prepared/led Gospel Assembly; Tuesday Musical Praise Hymn Practice; fortnightly pupil prepared/led In-class collective worship.

Implementation

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Gospel Assemblies take place in the hall on Mondays.

Class liturgy fortnightly

Content will follow the Gospel teachings and the liturgical calendar.

Prayer and liturgy in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

Gather – bringing everyone together into the Holy Space; the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sat in a different format, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

The Word – Sharing scripture to proclaim God's word (For example, by listening to a Scripture reading, breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;

Respond – Responding to God's word through prayer, action or song (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers. For other examples, see Birmingham Diocesan Education Service's (Practical Prayer Ideas for the Classroom')

Mission – sharing the message of the scripture for people to think about and act upon; the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

There should be a sacred space (prayer table) in every learning room. This should be placed in a prominent position and reflect the current liturgical season. Sacred spaces should be clutter-free and be set up in a manner

which inspires prayer.

During liturgy, a prayer focal point should be created. For example, use of the Altar Table in the hall, appropriately dressed; or using the additional wooden tables in the classroom.

Pupils should develop the skills necessary to plan and lead collective worship with growing independence across the phases. This journey of progression is explicitly mapped out for our staff and pupils below.

Staff are expected to model high-quality prayerful acts of Collective Worship and then support and facilitate opportunities for pupils to plan and lead their own. See appendices for BDES planning templates and resource bank.

School progression of class liturgy

Reception

Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1. Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), adults give children (whole class, group and/or individual) activities from each of the four elements (G, L, R, GF) to choose from, when they are ready. This increases throughout the year until children are choosing from all options and they begin to suggest their own activity ideas. Throughout the academic year, children become more confident/independent in creating the prayer focal point. This develops into being able to self-choose appropriate religious objects, including consideration of the liturgical season (with adult guidance) The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 1

Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), children (whole class, group and/or individual) choose activities from 2 or 3 elements (G, L, R, GF). Children are encouraged to suggest their own activities (adults could use the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire) so that by the Summer Term, they are confident in doing this mostly independently. The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 2 – Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3), children (whole class, group and/or individual) choose activities for each element (G, L, R, GF). Children are encouraged to suggest their own activities (adults could use the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire). Children lead all elements of the Collective Worship session as co-

ordained by an adult.

Children should be given sufficient time to practise. The teacher plans and coordinates all Masses and class assemblies, distributing scripture, prayers etc. to children.

Year 3

Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1.

Using the child-led planning sheet (see Appendix 3) and adult guidance for the focus, children (whole class, group and/or individual), with support (e.g.: if the child plans to play music for the 'Gather' section, the adult helps to identify the specific hymn/song), plan the Collective Worship session for each of the four elements (G, L, R, GF). Children use a combination of the child-led planning template-suggested activities and their own (adults share the Practical Prayer Ideas for The Classroom booklet to inspire). Adults model making planning choices that are linked to the chosen scripture and justifying these choices. Children lead all elements of the Collective Worship session, supported by an adult. Children should be given sufficient time to practise.

Year 4 –

Child-Led Worship (with adult support in planning) Teacher to explicitly model high-quality in-class collective worship during Autumn 1. Adults decide the theme of worship opportunities and support children in deciding upon relevant scripture. Children work independently at the planning stage, but prior to delivering their worship opportunities (or during planning), their planning is checked/directed to ensure its relevance to the chosen scripture and theme. Where possible, children will share worship opportunities with other classes in

different locations around school and beyond. Pupils will record worship opportunities by completing planning pro forma (starting with child-led planning template and moving onto main planning pro forma)

Year 5 and Year 6 – Children plan and lead all aspects of the liturgy independently making informed decisions to provide an enriching experience for all

Celebration of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the very core, the very essence of our Catholic life and therefore, Mass is celebrated with the whole school and the extended community on Wednesday morning in the school hall. Other opportunities for prayer take place within the classroom at the start of each day, before and after lunch and again at the end of each day. Prayer in the classrooms and in assemblies always includes use of symbols and a focal point for prayer which is appropriate to the liturgical season, for example, Lent, Advent or Easter. During all these times of prayer, both staff and pupils are involved in leading and participating.

The school is very blessed in having a very supportive priest (Canon John Batthula) within the parish who is in school regularly helping our children to experience what it means to belong to, or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.

The children are fortunate to be able to experience the richness of the liturgical life of the church in many ways throughout the year such as the Stations of the Cross during Lent, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least twice a year and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

It is thus our aim, at St George's, to provide our children with opportunities to experience a variety of forms of prayer that help each individual in the school community to foster their own relationship with God.

Links with the Parish and School Communities

All parents, parishioners and governors have an open invitation to our Masses and celebration assemblies. Throughout the year, classes hold their own class assemblies and we celebrate Our Lord's Nativity in our Christmas play and carol service.

Sacramental Preparation:



Pupils are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in Year 3 and in Year 6 for Confirmation.

The children complete their Sacramental preparation at St George's church led by a team of dedicated Catechists. In addition to this, the children are well supported through this important time in their faith journey by the school, as Sacramental work is completed in line with our RE Curriculum.



Although we are a deeply committed Catholic school, we welcome pupils of different faiths and of no faith - all pupils and families are very welcome. We are a one-form entry school in the heart of the City of Worcester. The children and families that make up our school family come from all around the globe, providing our children with a rich understanding of the wider world.



Expectations for our school community Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate enthusiastically in all acts of Prayer and Liturgy.
- Be active listeners and action the messages to the best of their ability
- Take part in the evaluation of liturgy and prayer

Liturgy Leaders

Liturgy Leaders are expected to:

- Be role models for the school's Catholic Ethos.
- Be role models for planning, leading and participating in acts of prayer and liturgy
- Be responsible for maintaining and evaluating sacred spaces across the school, including prayer tables in classes, feeding back to the Principal or Vice Principal when needed.
- Take notice of and act upon areas for improvement, in conjunction with the Principal and Vice Principal.
- Take an active part in all other areas of prayer and liturgy across the school, when required.

Parents and Carers

We ask that parents and carers support the importance of Prayer and Liturgy by:

- Attended and participating in Masses, assemblies and services where possible Support children in practising their readings, when applicable
- Where applicable, attend sacramental Masses of commitment
- Help the school evaluate the effectiveness of prayer and liturgy by completing surveys when available
- At home, where appropriate, support children to access and understand prayer, by, for example, using school prayer bags together

Staff

We ask that Staff teach the importance of Prayer and Liturgy by:

- Being role-models in attending and actively participating in acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- Lead high-quality prayer and liturgy, which act as excellent exemplars from which pupils are able to plan their own
- Support pupils in planning and leading acts of prayer and liturgy
- Provide pupils with meaningful prayer and liturgy experiences, including appropriately supporting those with SEND
- Assist pupils to develop the language of prayer and liturgy
- Teach pupils the traditional prayers of The Church (as identified by Birmingham Diocese)

Subject Leader

- The R.E. subject leader, in liaison with The Principal will be responsible for:
- Formulating and reviewing a written Prayer and Liturgy policy
- Coordinating rotas, timetables etc. for acts of prayer and liturgy, including collective worship
- Monitoring the appropriateness and effectiveness of prayer and liturgy, including collective worship
- Providing training to new staff and/or where training needs are identified Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings
- Liaise with the Parish Priest and the Parish Secretary with regard to the preparation and celebration of liturgy, prayer and Mass
- Ensure appropriate risk assessments are in place for religious visits, including visiting church
- Assisting Governors, including the R.E. link governor in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy

Governors

The LGB will:

- Review this policy and ensure it is appropriate for our school's context
- Place the highest priority on the evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy
- Ensure prayer and liturgy is embedded in the school's cycle of self-evaluation and planned improvements.
- Ensure provision for prayer and liturgy is prioritised when setting budgets and allocating resources.

Policy Monitoring and Review.

The Governance Committee are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to prayer and liturgy, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform

Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998. It is the overall responsibility of the Governance Committee, in consultation with the Principal, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the RE Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. The Local Governing Body (LGB) should review reports on the prayer life of the school.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for prayer and liturgy;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether prayer and liturgy is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on prayer and liturgy and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in prayer and liturgy.

Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process. Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and the LGB with recommendations for future action.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy.

Resourcing: Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Training and formation: All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and

formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and evaluation: Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Keeping Children safe in Education 25

At St George's, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, we take a child centered and coordinated approach to safeguarding.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they consider at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

KCSIE 2025

RE Coordinator: Miss Cairns

Principal: Miss Cairns

RE Link Local Governing Body Representative: Cecilia Denlegh-Maxwell

Chair of the Local Governing Body Committee: Canon John Batthula

Appendix 1

Daily Prayers

Morning Prayer *(to be said during morning registration)* Father in heaven, you love me, you are with me night and day. I want to love you always in all I do and say. I'll try to please you, Father, bless me through the day. Amen.

Grace Before Meals *(to be said before children are dismissed for lunch)*

Bless us, O God, as we sit together. Bless
the food we eat today.

Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us, O God. Amen.

Grace after meals *(to be said during afternoon registration)*

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.

Thank you, God, for all our friends. Thank you, God, for everything, Thank
you God.

Amen.

Prayer at the end of the day *(to be said before children are dismissed at the end of the day)*

KS1

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.

KS2

Lord Jesus Christ,

As we come to the end of this school day,

Help us to reflect and to pray:

For the difficulties I have known, I ask for your help.

For the blessings I have received; I thank you.

May I seek to be an instrument of your peace in my home today.

Each day is a gift.

May I look forward to a new start tomorrow.

May the journey of my life be an experience of your love,
your compassion,
your forgiveness
and your peace
Amen.

See separate APOP for yearly map of prayer and liturgy

2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope																						
Bold																						
Day	Date	Liturgical Calendar	Prayer Provision	Staff Responsible	Pupils Participating	Who will prepare pupils?	By when?	Will it be evaluated? How?	By when?	CPOF needed? Give details	By when?	Budget										
Week 22 in Ordinary Time																						
M	01/09/2025																					
Tu	02/09/2025																					
W	03/09/2025	Feast <i>St Gregory the Great</i>																				
Th	04/09/2025	Optional Memorial <i>St Cuthbert</i>																				
F	05/09/2025																					
Week 23 in Ordinary Time																						
M	08/09/2025																					
Tu	09/09/2025																					
W	10/09/2025																					
Th	11/09/2025																					
F	12/09/2025																					
Week 24 in Ordinary Time																						
M	15/09/2025	Memorial <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>																				
Tu	16/09/2025																					
W	17/09/2025																					
▶		Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Things to include each year		+															

Appendix 2

BDES Guidance for Prayer Areas- *n.b. each classroom has a box of religious objects for prayer tables. Battery candles only to be used.*

Prayer Areas



Position the prayer areas as a focal point of the room.

EYFS & Key stage 1 children should be able to gather around the prayer area.

Key Stage 2 children should be able to easily face towards the prayer area.

Permanent items in a prayer area should include a crucifix, a Bible and a candle. You may also include a religious statue.

Ensure that an age appropriate Bible/Bible story is enthroned upon the table.

Prayer areas can display prayers of the Church at different times of the liturgical year. (The specific prayers the children are learning)

You could include opportunities for children to share their own prayer intentions in a box, basket or book etc.

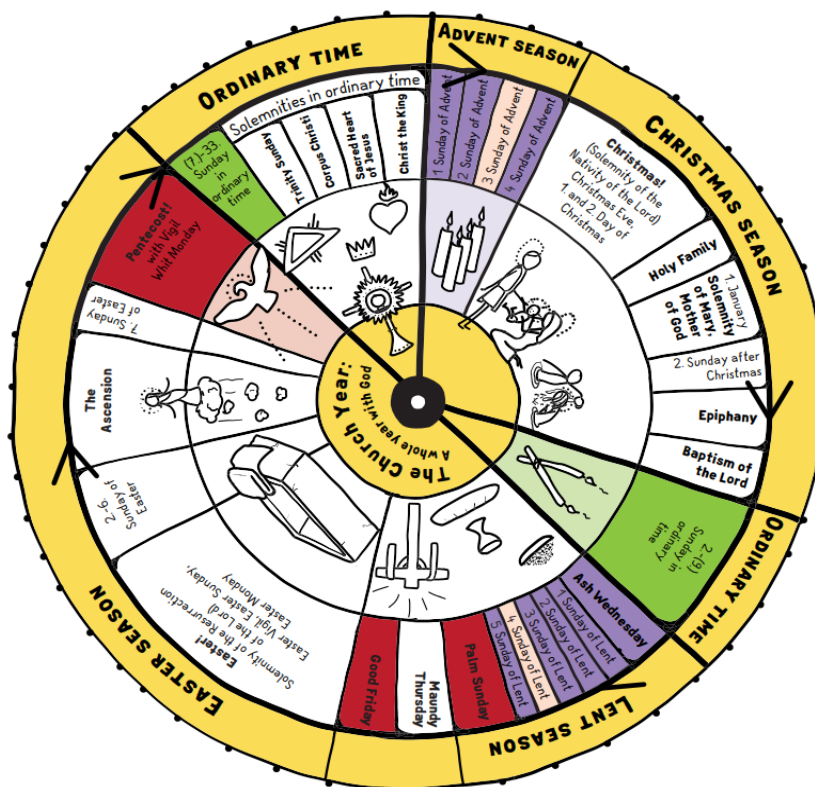
The area should reflect other key events, commemorations and celebrations of the Liturgical Year Church at appropriate times e.g. during the month of October a statue of Mary or Rosary Beads can be placed.

Additional items may include images, quotes, poems, hymns, Catholic religious symbols and other objects reflecting seasonal prayer intentions of the Church e.g. Creation and harvest

	
- Involve children to help create the area. - Ask a colleague to come and view your prayer area to offer guidance and support. - Ensure you know when the Liturgical times of the year change and you know where the appropriate cloth is. - Change the items on the table to match the liturgical seasons.	- Place the prayer area in a place where it is likely to be brushed against/damaged. - Place religious symbols and iconography pertinent to other faiths - This is a Catholic prayer area. - Have all the prayers for the whole year up.

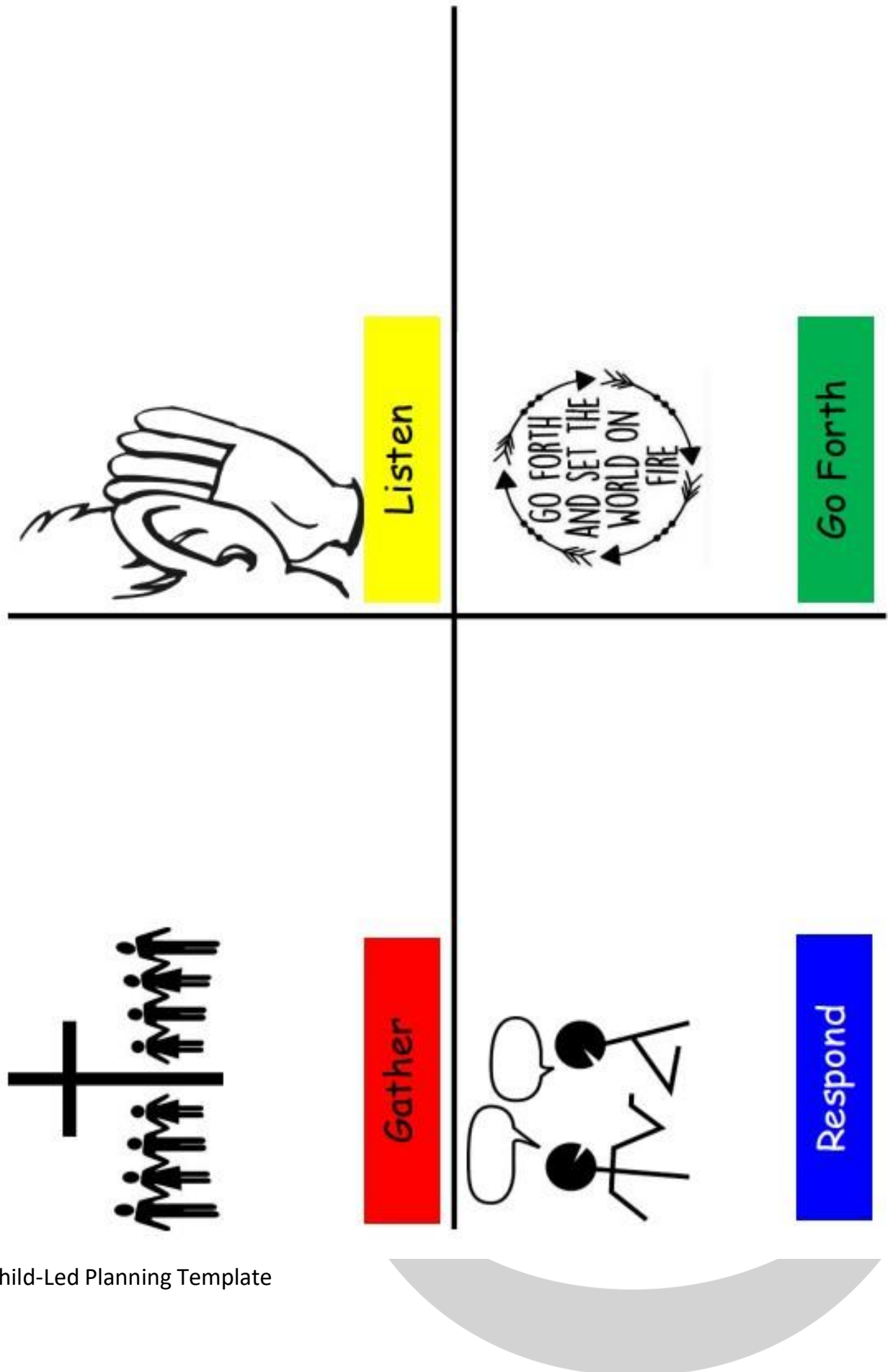
	- Clutter your prayer area – Sometimes less is more.

Liturgical Colours for Prayer Areas



Advent -Purple Rose	4 weeks of Advent (Four Sundays before Christmas) Prayer areas during this season will be covered with a purple cloth and should include an Advent Wreath (to be lit at prayer time), an Advent Calendar (counting the days from the first day of Advent to Christmas), figures of Mary & Joseph waiting in the stable, journeying Wise Men and a Jesse Tree (Y4). An image of Mary on the Diocesan Feast of the Immaculate Conception may also be displayed on 8 December.
Christmas - White and Gold	Christmas Season from the Vigil Christmas Eve Mass until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During the season of Christmas, prayer areas should be adorned in white and gold cloths to celebrate the birth of Christ. Flowers may also be placed in the prayer space (a Poinsettia has significant symbolism) . The crib would include a star, the figures of the nativity and then finally the Wise Men on Epiphany (6th January).

	on prayer areas
Ordinary Time 2 - Green	Ordinary Time following Pentecost Sunday until the Solemnity of Christ the King (the Sunday before Advent begins). • During this second period of Ordinary Time, the prayer area would be covered in a green cloth. • Images of Our Lady for her birthday (9th September) could be displayed. • During the Harvest festival celebrations, objects of creation and offerings for the harvest festival could be displayed on the prayer area. • In the month of October, images of the Mysteries of the Rosary and Rosary beads can be displayed and used in prayer time. • Images of the saints on November 1 (the saint of the school or class saint names if relevant) could be displayed. • During the month of November (the Month of the Holy Souls), a book of prayer intentions could be included for those who have died. • Images of Christ the King could be displayed on this Feast Day, the week before Advent begins which is also National Youth Sunday.

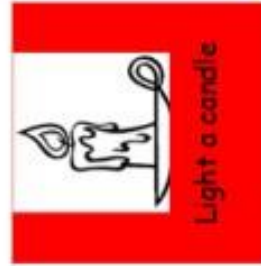




Play Music



Sit differently



Light a candle



Listen to some World News



Bible Reading



Listening to a Psalm



Show a picture / resource / artifact



Listening to a Prayer



Listening to a story



Listening to a Hymn



Act out the Gospel



Watch a PowerPoint



Write a Post-it



Open Prayer



Take something home



Special Challenge



Write a class Tweet



Activity E.G. Art



Listening to Prayer



Remember a sentence