

# LITURGY OF COMMISSIONING & WELCOME FOR A NEW

*Head Teacher*



Birmingham Diocesan  
Board of Education

It is anticipated that this Liturgy will be held in the Church, and will be led and organised by the local clergy in full collaboration with the new Headteacher and the Church School. Therefore the date and timing of the Service will need to be agreed in good time.

As the liturgy offers the opportunity for a number of members of the School community to participate you will need to give good notice of the Service and what is expected of participants. This will allow time for good preparation, and to invite others to take part in the Service.

This proposed liturgy can be used as a stand alone Service in which you might wish to include; Music, Hymns, and other readings. It can also be freely adapted to fit with local circumstances and tradition. Please be mindful and sensitive that while being sympathetic to the Christian Tradition of the Church School, a new Headteacher may not share that faith or tradition themselves.

Alternatively this liturgy can form part of a Sunday Service of the Word, or a Parish Eucharist, possibly replacing the Gathering, the Ministry of the Word, the Creed, and Prayers of Intercession, with the Eucharist picking up with the Peace.

You will want to include those people, and elements of the liturgy, that are available to you, and are appropriate to the context of your Church and Church School. Please feel free to leave out elements, or to adapt parts of the liturgy so that this Service works for you.

## Welcome & Introductions

Please join in the words in **bold** type

The Greeting:

Peace be with you

**And also with you.**

Opening Praise:

There are varieties of gifts:

**but the same spirit.**

There are varieties of service:

**but the same Lord.**

There are different kinds of working:

**but the same God is at work in all.**

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call:

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all:

**to whom Christ ascended on high.**

Through his spirit he gives us gifts:

**some are apostles, some are his prophets.**

Evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us:

**So we can serve together to build up his body  
and to grow in the fullness of Christ.**

## Collect Prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Jesus washed his disciples feet as their teacher and Lord. Give us compassionate and humble hearts to love and serve all those around us; and to view people how you see them, that we would be a light in their lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend. **Amen.**

## Bible Reading

Bible Reading: Romans 12:3-8

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

A Talk:

## The Commissioning

We all stand.

*Leader:* X, you have been appointed as the new Headteacher of XX School. You will recognise the responsibilities involved. Education is part of the Church's mission in sharing the Good News of Jesus. In the Diocese of Birmingham we are committed to being transformed by God in our lives and communities. We recognise that all of life presents opportunities for developing and deepening our love and knowledge of God and others.

As the Headteacher of our Church School you have a special responsibility to ensure that everyone in your school is valued and recognised as being a child of God, uniquely gifted by God.

You are also responsible for ensuring the school is deeply rooted in its Christian vision and values, and that worship and religious education are at the centre of the life and work of the school.

Will you commit yourself to this work?

HT: **With the help of God, I will.**

*Leader (to parents):* Parents, as your children's first teachers, will you work in partnership with the Headteacher, staff and governors of your school, supporting them as they seek to provide educational excellence in a loving Christian context?

*Parents:* **With the help of God, we will.**

*Leader (to pupils):* Children, will you promise to do your best to help your new Headteacher and all the staff of your school?

*Children:* **With the help of God, we will.**

*Leader or Rep of DBE (to Governors):*

Governors, will you commit yourselves to supporting X, your new Headteacher, and ensuring that all pupils receive an excellent Christian education?

*Governors:* **With the help of God, we will.**

*Leader or Rep of DBE (to School Staff):*

Members of staff, will you commit yourselves to the education and nurture of pupils in a Christian ethos and to working with and supporting your new Headteacher?

*Staff:* **With the help of God, we will.**

*Leader or Rep of DBE (addressing the Church*

*representatives):* As members of the Body of Christ in this place, you have a specific responsibility for the school which was founded by the church. Will you support the governors, Headteacher, staff, pupils and parents with your prayers and active encouragement?

*Churchwardens or other Church reps:* **With the help of God, we will.**

## *The Welcome of the new Headteacher*

Everyone sits:

*Leader:* X, in your appointment as Headteacher of XX School, you have been given a solemn trust. We pray that God will strengthen you, by his grace, faithfully to fulfil this task.

*Churchwarden or other Church Rep:* X, on behalf of the members of the local congregation we welcome you, in your role as Headteacher and recognise you as a leader in our church and our community. May God support you in all that you do.

*Rep of DBE:* X the Bishop and Diocese and we at the Board of Education welcome you to our Diocesan family of Schools and assure you of our care and support. I present you with this holding cross as a symbol of our prayers and an aid to yours.

*Representative of LA or Academy Trust:* X we and all the Schools of x LA (or x Academy Trust) welcome you to the LA (or the MAT) and look forward to working with you as a colleague.

*Pupil Representatives:* X, on behalf of the children of XX School we welcome you as our new Headteacher. With your help, we look forward to learning and growing and having fun as part of the school community.

# Welcome

## Presentation of a Bible

*The Children present the new HT with a Bible saying...*

We pray that together we may hear God's word and enjoy the adventure of discovering God's plan for our lives.

*Leader:* We welcome X our new HT with a round of applause:

## Prayers

*Led by the pupils of XX School...*

*Then we say the Lord' Prayer together:*

***Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.***



## Candle

*A pupil then lights a candle and says the following prayer:*

We light this candle as a symbol of Jesus Christ who said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We pray that all at our school will continue to learn and grow in that light. We pray that our school will be a place where the love of God is lived out. We pray for eyes that see the needs of others and hands that respond with love and action as Jesus shows us. Lord, help our school to reflect your light in our community.  
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Leader or Rep of DBE says:*

We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the Name of Christ, Amen!**

