



St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2025/26

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

...through Christ we learn...

This policy was originally drafted by the by the Head of School.

- Approved by Governing Body on the 15th September 2025
- Next full review due 15th September 2026.

1. Introduction

At St Edmund's, prayer and liturgy are at the heart of our school life. Through daily prayer, weekly *Celebrations of the Word*, Mass, and seasonal devotions, pupils are given opportunities to encounter Christ, deepen their relationship with God, and grow in confidence as leaders of worship.

2. Legal Duty

- All maintained schools must provide a **daily act of collective worship** (Education Reform Act 1988).
- In Catholic schools, worship is **distinctively Catholic** and rooted in the life of the Church.
- **Prayer and liturgy are distinct from Religious Education** and do not form part of the 10% RE curriculum entitlement.
- Provision is monitored by the **Diocese of Westminster** and inspected under the **Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI)** framework.

3. Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We aim to ensure that pupils:

1. Grow in **spirituality and personal relationship with God**.
2. Experience a variety of **forms of prayer** – traditional, scripture-based, meditative, contemplative and liturgical.
3. Take an **active role in planning and leading worship** appropriate to their age.
4. Participate in the **liturgical life of the Church**, through Masses, devotions, and the liturgical year.
5. Live out the values of the Gospel and **Catholic Social Teaching**.

4. Daily and Weekly Structure

Daily

- Morning Prayer
- Grace before Meals
- Afternoon Prayer

Weekly

- **Monday:** Whole-school *Celebration of the Word* (linked to Sunday Gospel)
- **Tuesday:** Hymn / Catholic Choir Assembly
- **Wednesday:** Class *Celebration of the Word* (pupil-led with teacher support)
- **Thursday:** Class *Celebration of the Word* (pupil-led, Scripture in action)
- **Friday:** Whole-school *Spirit Assembly* (celebrating Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching)

Liturgical Life

- Regular class and whole-school Masses, including Feast Days.
- Seasonal devotions: Advent wreath, Stations of the Cross, May devotions, Rosary, Pentecost liturgies.
- Use of the **Prayer Garden** for reflection and worship.

5. Prayer Progression

- Pupils follow a structured **Prayer Progression Framework (EYFS–Y6)**.
- They learn core prayers by heart, beginning with the Sign of the Cross in EYFS and progressing to the Creed, Rosary, and seasonal litanies by Year 6.
- Pupils experience different **types of prayer**:
 - **Vocal / Traditional** – e.g. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.
 - **Scripture-Based** – e.g. Lectio Divina.
 - **Meditative / Contemplative** – e.g. Examen, Adoration, silence.
 - **Liturgical Participation** – Mass responses, psalms, bidding prayers.
 - **Devotions & Seasons** – Rosary, Angelus, Stations of the Cross, seasonal litanies.
- Every class holds a **weekly pupil-led Celebration of the Word**, using the structure *Gather – Listen – Respond – Go Forth*.
- By Year 6, pupils are confident in leading worship and supporting younger pupils.

6. Forms of Prayer

In line with diocesan guidance, pupils are taught that prayer includes:

- **Blessing and Adoration** – praising God.
- **Prayer of Petition** – asking for God's help.
- **Prayer of Intercession** – praying for others.
- **Prayer of Thanksgiving** – giving thanks to God.
- **Prayer of Praise** – joyful prayer celebrating God's goodness.

7. Catholic Social Teaching and Mission

Prayer and liturgy inspire pupils to live out Catholic Social Teaching through:

- Charitable works and fundraising.
- Eco projects and care for creation.
- Links with **CAFOD, Caritas Westminster, Missio**, and parish initiatives.
- Pupils are encouraged to connect prayer with action, becoming witnesses to Christ in school and beyond.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Headteacher / Head of School	Ensure provision and quality of prayer and liturgy.
REC	Lead prayer and liturgy, support staff, oversee pupil chaplains, liaise with parish.
Class Teachers	Deliver daily prayers, organise weekly <i>Celebrations of the Word</i> , prepare pupils for Mass.
Pupil Chaplains & Prayer Leaders	Prepare prayer spaces, lead class worship, support assemblies, act as witnesses to faith.
Governors	Monitor Catholic Life, prayer and worship as part of CSED review.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Worship is monitored through observation, pupil voice, and review of prayer journals and floor books.
- Pupil Chaplains and Prayer Leaders are supported to evaluate worship in their classes.
- Governors receive termly reports on prayer and liturgy.