



St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life and Mission 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 _____.

1. Catholic Life and Mission

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, He replied: “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength... and your neighbour as yourself*” (Mark 12:30–31).

This call to love God and one another is at the heart of St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School. Our mission “*Through Christ we learn*” flows through all that we do.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that Catholic education has three purposes:

1. To ensure pupils understand the faith that gives the school its identity.
2. To invite all to worship God in spirit and truth.
3. To form all in goodness, truth, and justice found in Christ.

This policy complements our **RE Policy, Prayer & Liturgy Policy, and RSHE Policy**, and shows how St Edmund’s responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church’s mission.

2. Mission Statement

Our mission is:

- Pupils understand and can articulate it at their level.
- Staff embrace it through behaviour, teaching, assemblies, displays, and relationships.
- Parents and the community see it clearly through signage, newsletters, policies, and worship.

3. School Environment

Visitors to St Edmund’s are immediately aware of our Catholic identity:

- A welcoming entrance with an image of **St Edmund**, our patron, alongside the Pope and Bishop.
- Crucifixes and prayer focal points with liturgical cloths and artefacts in every classroom.
- Displays reflecting the **SPIRIT values**, liturgical seasons, pupil chaplaincy, eco-warriors, and social justice projects.
- A well-maintained **Prayer Garden** for individual and group prayer.
- Class liturgy boxes to support child-led worship.

4. Curriculum

- Religious Education is central and follows *To Know You More Clearly*, aligned with the liturgical year.
- Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is embedded across the curriculum, using CAFOD, Caritas, *Laudato Si’* and *Fratelli Tutti*.

- Pupils engage with awards such as **Faith in Action** and **Eco-Schools**.
- RSHE is taught in line with the Diocese and CES, recognising we are made in God's image.
- Pupils study other world faiths, especially Judaism and Islam, building respect for all neighbours.

5. Charitable Outreach

We live out faith through action. Pupils regularly support local, national, and global causes:

- **Harvest:** Foodbank collections (school is a year-round drop-off point).
- **Advent:** Charity chosen by pupils; Christmas cards for the elderly.
- **Lent:** CAFOD fundraising, pupil-led projects.
- **Year-round:** Macmillan Coffee Morning, RSPCA runs, Young Minds, St Joseph's Hospice.
- **Eco-Warriors:** Recycling, planting, Creation Care projects.

6. Social Justice

Pupils are encouraged to campaign for justice, e.g.:

- Refugee Week.
- Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Climate change actions (Switch Off Fortnight, walk-to-school).
- Linking Gospel values to real-world issues.

7. Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is a visible and vital part of Catholic Life:

- **Pupil Chaplains** lead prayer, assemblies, and liturgy set-up.
- **Caritas Ambassadors & Peace & Justice Group** connect prayer with action.
- Pupils write and lead prayers, maintain class sacred spaces, and guide Gospel missions.
- Opportunities for retreat days and informal prayer during lunchtimes.

8. School Community

- St Edmund's is inclusive and welcomes families of all faiths and none.
- Pupils of other faiths are supported to take part respectfully in prayer and worship.
- Our behaviour policy reflects our belief that each child is made in the image of God.
- Strong links with local schools, Catholic clusters, and ecumenical partners.

9. Parents

- Parents are the first teachers of the faith; we work in close partnership.

- Parents are invited to: Masses, Spirit Assemblies, Gospel assemblies, and seasonal liturgies.
- Family prayer initiatives (Travelling Cribs, Rosary Bags).
- Strong Parent–School Association (PFA) supporting community events and fundraising.
- Communication through newsletters, **Class Dojo** (with 5-day response expectation), and open evenings.

10. Parish Links

We work closely with our parish priest and parish community:

- Parish priest celebrates Masses and visits to support RE.
- Pupils attend church to learn about features and participate in worship.
- Chaplains are commissioned during Mass.
- Joint campaigns with parish Justice & Peace group.

11. Leadership of Catholic Life and Mission

The **REC** and **Head of School** lead Catholic Life and Mission, supported by SLT and governors. Responsibilities include:

- Strategic planning in line with diocesan vision.
- Ensuring pupils can articulate Catholic life and CST.
- Coordinating chaplaincy and charitable outreach.
- Monitoring and evaluating provision through CSED.
- Reporting to governors and the Diocese.

12. Monitoring and Review

- Catholic Life and Mission is monitored through **learning walks, pupil voice, and displays**.
- Reviewed annually by SLT and governors.
- Evaluated in line with CSI and diocesan guidance.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life & Mission – At a Glance

Mission & Values

- *“Through Christ we learn”*
- **SPIRIT Values:** Service – Perseverance – Integrity – Respect – Inclusivity – Trust
- *“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)*

Weekly & Seasonal Worship

When	Focus	Led by
Monday	Gospel Assembly	SLT/REC
Tuesday	Singing Assembly	Music Lead
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship (children planning)	Pupils
Thursday	Class Collective Worship (children leading)	Pupils
Friday	SPIRIT Celebration Assembly	SLT (parents invited last Friday monthly)
Seasonal	Feast Days, Advent, Lent, Easter, Rosary, Stations of the Cross	Parish Priest / REC

Chaplaincy & Pupil Leadership

Group	Role
Pupil Chaplains	Lead prayer, set up liturgy, model faith
Prayer Leaders	Guide class prayer responses
Caritas Ambassadors	Link prayer to charity & CST
Peace & Justice Group	Lead Gospel missions
School Choir	Lead sung worship

Charitable Outreach & CST

Term	Theme	Charity / Outreach
Autumn 1	Care for Creation	CAFOD Harvest, Eco projects
Autumn 2	Option for the Poor	Foodbank, Salvation Army, Christmas Jumper Day
Spring 1	Solidarity & Common Good	Young Minds, Caritas Ambassadors
Spring 2	Community & Participation	Children in Need, St Joseph's Hospice
Summer 1	Dignity of Work	Guide Dogs UK, Speech & Language charity
Summer 2	Dignity of the Human Person	Macmillan Coffee Morning, school fundraisers

Parents & Parish

- Parents invited to **Spirit Assemblies, Gospel Assemblies**, Masses, and liturgies.
- Parish priest celebrates Masses, visits classes, and supports chaplaincy.
- Family faith activities: **Travelling Cribs, Rosary Bags**.

- Communication through newsletters and **Class Dojo** (5-day response system).

School Environment

- Crucifixes and prayer tables in every class.
- Displays showing liturgical seasons, CST, and pupil chaplaincy.
- Dedicated **Prayer Garden** used for reflection and class liturgies.

Monitoring & Review

- Catholic Life monitored through **pupil voice, learning walks, displays, and RE books**.
- Evidence collated into **CSED** and reported to governors.
- Reviewed annually in line with **CSI and diocesan guidance**.