



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 _____.

1. Mission Statement

At St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, prayer and liturgy are at the heart of our Catholic identity and daily life.

Our mission is simple: *"Through Christ we learn."* We believe every child is *"God's masterpiece"* (Ephesians 2:10), created with unique gifts to grow in faith, wisdom, and love.

Rooted in our **SPIRIT values** — Service, Perseverance, Integrity, Respect, Inclusivity, and Trust — we seek to form pupils who encounter Christ in prayer, celebrate the Church's liturgy with reverence and joy, and live the Gospel through daily action.

Our Mission	SPIRIT Values	Scriptural Foundation
"Through Christ we learn." Prayer and liturgy shape who we are and how we live.	Service – Perseverance – Integrity – Respect – Inclusivity – Trust	"You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) "We are God's masterpiece" (Ephesians 2:10)

2. Legal Duty

In accordance with the **1988 Education Reform Act** and the **School Standards & Framework Act 1998**, every child at St Edmund's is entitled to a **daily act of collective worship**.

- In a Catholic school, this is expressed through **Prayer and Liturgy**, in fidelity to the mission of the Church.
- Assemblies may include prayer, but a short prayer alone does not fulfil the requirement.
- Prayer and Liturgy are **distinct from curriculum Religious Education** and must not be counted as part of the 10% RE entitlement.
- Provision is inspected under the **Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI)** framework.

3. Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Through Prayer and Liturgy, St Edmund's aims to:

Aim	Examples in Practice
Give glory and honour to God	Feast Day Masses, Eucharistic Adoration
Encounter Christ and deepen faith	Daily classroom prayers, Gospel assemblies
Foster community and belonging	SPIRIT assemblies, class liturgies
Provide variety of prayer	Praise, thanksgiving, intercession, contemplation
Develop pupil leadership	Chaplaincy, Prayer Leaders, Caritas Ambassadors
Nurture respect for others' faiths	Invitational worship with respectful participation

4. Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

Daily and Weekly Worship

The rhythm of worship is consistent across the school week:

Day	Type of Worship	Led by	Notes
Daily	Morning, lunchtime & end-of-day prayers	Class teacher / pupils	Traditional & spontaneous
Monday	Gospel Assembly	SLT / REC	Focus on Sunday Gospel
Tuesday	Singing Assembly	Music Lead / REC	Worship through song
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship	Pupils (teacher support)	Gather – Listen – Respond – Go Forth
Friday	SPIRIT Celebration Assembly	SLT	Parents invited (last Friday monthly)
Seasonal	Feast Day Liturgies & Masses	Parish Priest / SLT	Advent, Lent, Easter, St Edmund's Feast

Seasonal and Liturgical Worship

- Whole-school and Key Stage liturgies for Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and major feasts.
- Masses for St Edmund, Ss Peter & Paul, All Saints, Our Lady.
- Devotional practices such as the Rosary (October, May) and Stations of the Cross (Lent).
- Prayer Garden liturgies across the year.

5. Progression in Prayer

Children are gradually introduced to the richness of Catholic prayer life in a way appropriate to their age and stage:

EYFS	KS1 (Y1–2)	Lower KS2 (Y3–4)	Upper KS2 (Y5–6)
Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross	Apostles' Creed	Apostles' Creed
Simple thank-you prayers	Our Father, Hail Mary	Act of Contrition	Act of Contrition
Hail Mary	Glory Be	Angelus	Angelus
Guardian Angel Prayer	Class Saint prayers	Lectio Divina (guided)	Lectio Divina (independent)
Songs of praise	Intercessory prayers	Rosary decade	Full Rosary
Short silences	Thanksgiving prayers	Examen (intro)	Examen (daily reflection)

6. Types of Prayer

Pupils experience the full range of Catholic prayer forms across the school year:

Type	Examples	When/Where
Praise	Hymns, psalms, spontaneous prayer	Singing assembly, class worship
Thanksgiving	Pebble prayers, gratitude jars	EYFS, Prayer Garden
Petition	Prayer chains, balloon prayers	Lent, class worship
Intercession	Prayers of the Faithful, CAFOD	Assemblies, feast days
Forgiveness	Sand tray prayers, Acts of Contrition	Lent, reconciliation liturgies
Contemplation	Silence, stillness	KS2 worship
Meditation	Lectio Divina, Examen	KS2
Adoration	Eucharistic adoration, crucifix prayer	Feast days, parish Mass

7. Faith in Action

Prayer inspires action. At St Edmund's, pupils live out Catholic Social Teaching (CST) through outreach and charity:

Term	CST Theme	Charity / Outreach
Autumn 1	Care for Creation	CAFOD Harvest, Greenpeace 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

8. Pupil Leadership

Role	Responsibilities
Pupil Chaplains	Plan and lead prayer, set up focal points, guide peers
Class Prayer Leaders	Lead responses, write bidding prayers, reflect
Peace & Justice Group	Deliver Gospel missions to classes
Caritas Ambassadors	Connect prayer to charity and social action
School Choir	Lead sung prayer in assemblies and Masses

9. Planning and Recording

Method	Practice
Structure	Worship follows Gather – Listen – Respond – Go Forth
Pupil Planning	Age-appropriate templates used by classes
Recording	Class prayer books/floor books (photos, scripture, reflections)
Central Log	Whole-school liturgies recorded and evaluated by REC/SLT

10. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Executive Head & Head of School	Ensure statutory duty; resource and promote Catholic ethos
REC	Lead policy; manage worship calendar; staff CPD; monitor practice; liaise with parish
Teachers & Support Staff	Model prayer; support pupil leadership; maintain sacred spaces
Pupils	Lead worship; evaluate; witness through action
Governors	Monitor Catholic Life; review policy annually; receive head's reports

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

Who	Method	Frequency
REC/SLT	Observations, book scrutiny, pupil/staff voice	Termly
Pupils	Reflections recorded in prayer books	Ongoing
Governors	Head's report, Catholic Self-Evaluation (CSED), policy review	Termly/Annual

12. Inclusion and Safeguarding

Principle	Practice
Invitational	All worship is open to all; no child is compelled
Respectful	Pupils of other faiths are welcomed and supported
Safeguarding	Any disclosure during prayer is addressed under CP policy

13. Resourcing

Resource	Provision
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Class Prayer Boxes	Seasonal cloths, Bible, crucifix, candle, artefacts
Central Resources	Hymnals, CAFOD/CES materials, liturgical symbols
Budget	Dedicated RE and Prayer budget ensures parity with core subjects

14. Review

- This policy is reviewed annually by SLT and the REC, with oversight from Foundation Governors.
- Updates are made in line with diocesan guidance (*Prayer and Liturgy Directory*, Westminster Education Service).

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Prayer & Liturgy Calendar Overview (Appendix to Policy)

Weekly Rhythm

Day	Worship	Led by
Monday	Gospel Assembly (linked to Sunday)	SLT/REC
Tuesday	Singing Assembly (praise & worship through song)	Music Lead/REC
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship	Pupils with teacher support
Thursday	Class Prayer / Chaplaincy	Teacher & Pupil Chaplains

Friday	SPIRIT Celebration Assembly (last Friday monthly – parents invited)	SLT
Daily	Morning, lunchtime & end-of-day prayers	Class teachers/pupils

Seasonal Liturgies

Season	Celebrations
Advent	Advent Wreath liturgies, whole-school Advent Mass, Nativity (EYFS/KS1)
Lent	Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross (KS2), Lenten liturgies
Easter	Easter liturgy, Resurrection celebration, Pentecost
Saints & Feast Days	St Edmund, Ss Peter & Paul, All Saints, Our Lady
May & October	Rosary devotions (KS2)
Parish Links	Masses with parish priest across the year

Prayer Progression

EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Sign of the Cross, thank-you prayers, Hail Mary	Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be	Apostles' Creed, Act of Contrition, Angelus	Apostles' Creed, Act of Contrition, Examen, Lectio Divina, Rosary

Types of Prayer

- **Praise & Thanksgiving:** Singing assemblies, gratitude prayers, pebbles, balloons.
- **Petition & Intercession:** Prayer chains, Prayers of the Faithful, CAFOD prayers.
- **Forgiveness:** Sand tray prayers, reconciliation services.
- **Contemplation & Meditation:** Silence, Lectio Divina, Examen.
- **Adoration:** Eucharistic worship, feast-day prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.

Faith in Action (Catholic Social Teaching)

Term	Theme	Charity / Action
Autumn 1	Care for Creation	CAFOD Harvest, Greenpeace
Autumn 2	Option for the Poor	Foodbank, Salvation Army, Christmas Jumper Day
Spring 1	Solidarity & Common Good	Young Minds, Caritas
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, school fundraiser
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Pupil Leadership

- **Pupil Chaplains:** support planning, lead liturgies, prayer tables.
- **Class Prayer Leaders:** guide peers in prayer responses.
- **Peace & Justice Group:** lead Gospel missions.
- **Caritas Ambassadors:** connect prayer and charity.
- **School Choir:** lead sung worship at assemblies and liturgies.