



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 15th September 2026.

1. Introduction

At St Edmund's, the Catholic faith is not simply one aspect of the curriculum but the foundation of all we do. This policy sets out how Catholic Life, prayer, worship, and mission are embedded in daily school life, ensuring that pupils encounter Christ, grow in faith, and live out the Gospel in word and action.

2. Aims

We aim to:

- Foster a strong **Catholic identity** rooted in Gospel values.
- Ensure that every pupil has opportunities for **prayer, worship, reflection and liturgy**.
- Embed **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)** across the curriculum and school life.
- Support pupils in becoming **witnesses to Christ**, both in school and the wider community.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of faith through **charitable outreach and social action**.

3. School Environment

- Catholic identity is visible throughout the school: crucifixes, icons, displays, seasonal colours, and prayer areas in every classroom.
- Each classroom has a **prayer table** and class prayer book, linked to the liturgical year.
- A **Prayer Garden** provides space for reflection and whole-school liturgies.
- Our environment reflects our mission to be a place of **welcome, respect, inclusion and faith**.

4. Curriculum and Worship

- Religious Education is taught for **10% of curriculum time** in line with the **Religious Education Directory (2023 – To Know You More Clearly)**.
- The curriculum is structured through the six **Branches**: Creation & Covenant; Prophecy & Promise; Galilee to Jerusalem; Desert to Garden; To the Ends of the Earth; Dialogue & Encounter.
- Prayer and worship are built into the rhythm of daily life:

Daily Prayer

- Morning Prayer
- Grace before meals
- Afternoon Prayer

Weekly Prayer & Worship

- **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 staff support)
- **Thursday:** Class *Celebration of the Word* (pupil-led, Scripture in action)
- **Friday:** *Spirit Assembly* (celebrating Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching)

Liturgical Life

- Regular class and whole-school Masses and Feast Day celebrations.
- Seasonal devotions: Advent wreath, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, May devotions, Pentecost liturgies.
- Pupils progress from simple daily prayers in EYFS to leading liturgy and worship by the end of Year 6.

5. Prayer Progression

- A structured **Prayer Progression Framework** maps prayer from EYFS to Year 6.
- Pupils learn core prayers by heart (Sign of the Cross → Creed, Rosary, seasonal litanies).
- They experience different **types of prayer**: traditional, scripture-based (Lectio Divina), meditative (Examen, silence, Adoration), devotions (Rosary, Stations, Angelus) and liturgical prayer.
- Every class holds a **weekly pupil-led Celebration of the Word** using the structure *Gather – Listen – Respond – Go Forth*.
- By the end of Year 6, pupils can confidently recite the core prayers of the Church, participate fully in Mass, and plan and lead worship for others.

6. Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

- CST is embedded in RE, assemblies, curriculum subjects and charitable projects.
- Pupils take part in activities linked to the themes of dignity, solidarity, care for creation, and the common good.
- Links with **CAFOD, Caritas, Faith in Action** and local parish initiatives ensure pupils live CST in practice.

7. Mission in Action

- Pupils are encouraged to live as **disciples of Christ** by serving others.
- Our school engages in charitable works: fundraising, food banks, social outreach.
- Mission is celebrated in assemblies, newsletters and parish bulletins.
- Pupil voice groups (School Council, Caritas Ambassadors, Eco Team) contribute to Catholic Life and Mission.

8. Inclusion and Community

- All pupils, regardless of background or faith, are included in the Catholic Life of the school.
- Respect for other faiths is taught and lived, reflecting the Church's call to dialogue.
- Parents and carers are invited to join Masses, liturgies and school worship.
- Parish links are strong, with regular involvement of the parish priest.

9. Leadership and Governance

- The Headteacher and REC lead Catholic Life, supported by all staff.
- Governors monitor Catholic Life and Mission through reports, visits and self-evaluation.
- Catholic Life priorities are included in the **School Development Plan**.
- Catholic Life is reviewed annually and forms part of the **Catholic Self-Evaluation Document (CSED)**.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Evidence of Catholic Life and Mission is gathered through observations, pupil voice, worship logs, RE floor books, and the Prayer Progression Framework.
- Governors and leaders evaluate the impact of Catholic Life on pupils' spiritual, moral and social development.
- Monitoring ensures alignment with diocesan expectations and the **CSI Framework**.

Catholic Life at a Glance

Daily

- Morning Prayer
- Grace before Meals
- Afternoon Prayer
- Class prayer table and prayer book
- Pupil contributions to spontaneous prayer

Weekly

- **Monday** – Whole-school *Celebration of the Word* (Sunday Gospel)
- **Tuesday** – Hymn / Catholic Choir Assembly
- **Wednesday** – Class *Celebration of the Word* (pupil-led with support)
- **Thursday** – Class *Celebration of the Word* (pupil-led, Scripture in action)
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Termly

- Class Masses
- Whole-school Masses
- Feast Day celebrations
- Pupil-led liturgies
- Charitable outreach projects linked to Catholic Social Teaching
- Moderation of RE & prayer evidence (floor books, prayer journals)

Annually

- Advent: Wreath, Nativity, charity outreach
- Lent: Stations of the Cross, penitential liturgies, CAFOD fundraising
- May: Marian devotions, Rosary, Crowning of Our Lady
- June: Pentecost liturgies, celebration of gifts of the Spirit
- Year 6 Leavers' Mass
- Whole-school evaluation of Catholic Life (CSED)