



# St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

## Prayer Policy September 2023

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Approved by:        | Stella Oladinni               | Date: 9/5/2023 |
| Last reviewed on:   | 17/10/2022                    |                |
| Next review due by: | 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 |                |

## INTRODUCTION

Prayer is central to our daily Christian living at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. Consequently, we are committed to creating a vibrant Catholic community, where we acknowledge and celebrate diversity, enriched and united by our faith. This Prayer Policy is based on our understanding of the mission of our Lord, Jesus Christ; informed by our understanding of the importance of prayer in our lives and in the lives of believers; and based on our core purpose of building the Kingdom of God.

We value prayer as a means of deepening our connection with God, and as teachers and educators, we work together to develop positive relations. Prayer has multiple expressions: vocal, meditative and contemplative; forms: petitions, intercessions, thanksgiving and prayer. It is a rich and valued part of our Catholic Christian tradition, and way of life.

We believe that prayer is our response to the wonder and mystery of life, and through prayer, we enrich our relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It enriches our sense of the sacred, and is powerful, meaningful and life-changing.

At St Edmund's, we strive to create an atmosphere in which all members of the community feel welcome at the table of our Lord. And it is the responsibility of every member of the community to make this happen.

## STRATEGIC GOAL

Our main aim is to provide opportunities for children, Teachers and all who work at St Edmund's, to be given the chances and tools to support them in developing their spirituality, and to accompany them on this journey.

Underpinning this are four main areas, which stand as pillars to our commitment:

**COMMUNITY:** we celebrate *community* by promoting a spirit of togetherness

**DIVERSITY:** we celebrate *diversity* by embracing each other's unique gifts and talents

**FAITH:** we celebrate our *faith* by living the Gospel Values

**LEARNING:** we strive for excellence in a child-centred environment, aiming to develop *religiously literate* pupils

## CONSEQUENCES

In implementing this prayer policy, St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, in partnership with our parents will consider:

- the unique ways in which prayer is experienced by individuals; and
- pupils and staff of other faith backgrounds.

Therefore, we shall:

- provide opportunities for all in our community to become prayerful;
- teach a variety of common Catholic prayers; prayer forms from other religious faiths; and provide multiple contexts for all to experience prayer;
- make the time to pray before and during school, and at the end of the day;
- formally teach pupils traditional prayers; and
- try to develop in all pupils the importance and value of prayer in everyday life.

## PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

At St Edmund's Catholic Primary School:

- there will be a sacred place – an altar – created in every classroom containing signs, symbols, images, artefacts and samples of work to help pupils engage in rich prayerful experiences;
- children will be afforded many opportunities to actively engage in the prayer life of the school and local community through: daily class prayers; collective worship at Monday assemblies; class and school liturgies; school and parish Masses;
- Teachers will model different forms of prayer for pupils as a response to life circumstances;
- appropriate behaviour for prayer time will be explicitly taught and expected;
- we will provide tools, e.g. rosaries, Bibles, prayer and hymn books, to support pupils with their prayer intentions;
- parents will be invited to participate in the prayer life of the School through Assembly Liturgies, Feast and Holy Day celebrations, special Liturgies and Masses;
- we created a Prayer Garden in the Junior Playground, resourced with rosaries, which pupils and staff will be encouraged to use for quiet reflection and/or prayer; and
- we will create Collective Worship displays and Liturgy calendar display.
- We have created a St Edmund's Prayer and shared it with all students in a Collective Worship assembly.

## PRAYER EXPERIENCE AND EXPECTATIONS

Across the whole school children will be taught:

- The Sign of the Cross;
- St Edmund's Morning Prayer;
- St Edmund's Evening Prayer;
- Grace before and after Meals;
- The Our Father;
- Hail Mary; and
- Simple responses to litanies, e.g. *And with your Spirit, Thanks be to God, Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

In Key Stage Two:

- Morning Offering;
- The Angelus;
- Hail Holy Queen;
- Act of Contrition;
- Glory be to the Father;
- Guardian Angel Prayer;
- Apostles' Creed;
- Recitation of the Rosary; and
- The Magnificat.

## POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Head of School, along with the RE team will hold responsibility for the monitoring of the policy. It will be evaluated and reviewed by the school staff and governors every two years.

The Foundation Governors (in the name of the Diocesan Trustees) will have a particular role and responsibility for this review. The overall responsibility of Governors from a statutory perspective and Foundation Governors from the canonical perspective needs to be clearly stated in the context of the denomination nature of the school.