



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Committee responsible for policy	Curriculum and Achievement
Co-ordinator	Fearghal Nash
Statutory/Non-statutory	Non STATUTORY
Frequency of Review	Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required
Date of last review Approved by Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB	October 2022
Date of next review	May 2027
Purpose of policy	To ensure all staff understand the legal requirements for collective worship
Consultation	Staff
Links to other policies	All other subject policies Curriculum, Marking, Planning

Mission Statement

Our Catholic School exists to provide an Education that is God centred. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and builds on the faith already established by the family through Baptism. 'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'.

We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents and everyone in the school to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. All are made welcome and the worth of each is recognised, valued and celebrated.

With the mission statement in mind, St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

- believes in a partnership between home, school and parish in which each child experiences a living faith based on the teachings of Christ
- endeavours to create a caring environment where each child, being unique and individual, has the opportunity to fulfil their potential aims for excellence in all areas of the curriculum
- strives towards achieving good working relationship and open communication, with children and adults being supported, respected and valued

The Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Statement of Requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 9.4 Model prayer and liturgy policy Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education

Prayer and Liturgy at this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims

At St Edmund' we aim to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision At St. Edmund's

- We hold child led liturgies in our classrooms throughout the week.
- On Monday whole school assemblies happen in the hall.
- We have Key Stage class lead assemblies for every class
- Junior classes attend weekly Mass on a rotation
- The whole school attends Mass on major Feast day and celebrations
- Children visit the church throughout the year for different topics
- Every Friday our whole school community stops to say the Angelus.

See Appendix A for full range of school celebrations throughout the year.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of liturgies are planned:

- Following the structure of gather, Word, response, mission with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most liturgies
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Evidence may be recorded:

- through the scripts of class assemblies
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- through plans for child led collective worship being kept in RE books.

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

We have a central resource area in school where we keep religious objects and literature to assist with planning prayer and liturgy.

Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Responsibility

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory

- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

Prayer and the liturgy will be monitored and evaluated through:

- Observing prayer and liturgy throughout the school
- Pictures, children's contributions, feedback from parents/community and photos gathered for RE portfolio
- Assembly scripts
- RE Book

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life and RE Leads and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years. The Named Governor for RE, in particular, will play a most important role.

Date May 2024

Chair of Governors:

Appendix A

CELEBRATIONS DURING THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Autumn

Prayer tables are green at start of academic year.

Harvest Thanksgiving

A Communal Harvest Festival with gifts of food and drink. Harvest Gifts shared with old and/or housebound in our Parish Community and with local foodbank

Month of the Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary. Classes are encouraged to pray at least a decade of the Rosary each day.

Advent

This is the season to prepare for Christmas Introduction and blessing of the Advent Wreath. A common Advent Calendar with thoughts for the day. The prayer table should be changed to purple.

Advent Service led by Year 2

Christmas

Christmas hymns with Nursery

Celebration of the Nativity through drama led by Reception and Nursery

Christingle led by Year 1

Advent Carol led by KS2 in the Church

Travelling Crib goes home with Infants

Spring

Prayer tables are gold for Christmas season then green for Ordinary Time after Feast of Baptism of Our Lord.

Epiphany (if in term time)

-Parish Mass

Holy Family (if in term time)

Parish Mass

Candlemas

Celebration of Light and Jesus' presentation in the Temple. Led by Reception.

Lent

This season is to prepare for Easter. Opportunity for Prayer and Penance. Encourage awareness of our greater responsibilities and of our privilege to help our brothers and sisters in the wider world.

Juniors go to Parish Mass on Ash Wednesday

Infants have Ash Wednesday Service in their own classes

Lenten Sacrament of Reconciliation for Years 4, 5 and 6.

Travelling Stations of the Cross go home with Juniors.

Special washing of the feet assembly on the last day of term to remember the Last Supper.

Infant Mothering Sunday Assembly

Celebrated before the week leading up to the 4th Sunday in Lent.

Easter

The resurrection of our Lord is celebrated during the school holidays however covered through 4 week RE topic. Special assembly and displays when the children return to highlight the importance of this feast. KS1 and Foundation stage have an Easter bonnet parade.

Summer

Prayer table in gold for Easter season until Pentecost where they change to green for Ordinary Time.

First Holy Communions:

The children in Year 3 (there may be children from other year groups) make their First Holy Communion on a Saturday in May. As many staff as possible try to come to celebrate this occasion with them.

May Procession in Honour of Our Lady:

Led by Year 3. May is a month devoted to Our Lady. Children process to either field or Church. Children bring in flowers and they are distributed to the elderly and house bound in the local community. For the rest of the month each class try and say a decade of the Rosary each day.

Ascension:

Celebration of our Lord's return to Heaven. Parish Mass and special assembly to celebrate.

Pentecost:

Celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Parish Mass and special assembly to celebrate.

Corpus Christi:

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Eucharistic adoration in the Church.

Feast of St. Peter and Paul: Celebrated with parish Community.

Leavers' Mass and disco:

A farewell celebration for the Year 6 leavers. This is where they are presented with their golden books.

Appendix B

Prayer Progression

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9 – 11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sign of the Cross• The Lord’s Prayer• Hail Mary• Glory be• Grace before meals• Grace after meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Apostles’ Creed• An Act of Contrition• Angel of God• Come, Holy Spirit• The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Offering• The Rosary• The Magnificat• Act of Faith• Act of Hope• Act of Love

The Sign of the Cross

*In the name of the Father and
of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The sign of the cross is both an action and a statement of faith.
A physical reminder of our redemption in the cross and an expression of faith in the Trinity.

The Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it
is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

The Lord’s Prayer ‘is truly the summary of the whole of the Gospel’. (CCC 2761.)

The Hail Mary

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the
Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy
Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

The first part of the Hail Mary is biblical, drawn from Gabriel’s greeting to Mary at the Annunciation and Elizabeth’s greeting at the Visitation. The second part of the prayer has its origins in 15th-century Italy.

Glory be to the Father

*Glory be to the Father and to the
Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now,
and ever shall be world without end.
Amen.*

The doxology is a short expression of praise of the Trinity dating back to the early Church. It is used extensively in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotions such as the Rosary.

Grace before meals

*Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts
which we are about to receive from your bounty. Through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Grace after meals

*We give you thanks, Almighty God, for all your
benefits,
who live and reign, world without end. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God,
the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,*

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; he
descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended
into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will
come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life
everlasting. Amen.*

Based on baptismal documents of the 8th century but related to texts of an earlier origin.

Act of Contrition

*O my God,
because you are so good,
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and with the help of your grace
I will not sin again.*

One of the forms of the Penitent's Prayer of Sorrow found in the Rite of Penance.

Angel of God

*Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

Come Holy Spirit

The prayer is based on one by Reginald of Canterbury in the early 12th century.

*V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*Let us pray
O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did
instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by
that same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

This prayer is a compilation of a number of liturgical texts drawn from the Mass and Office of Pentecost and the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

*Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given me,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me. O most
merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love
you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by
day.
Amen.*

Morning Offering

*O Jesus,
through the most pure heart of Mary, I
offer you all my prayers,
thoughts, works and sufferings of this day
for all the intentions of your most Sacred heart.*

The Rosary

For each mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.

The Joyful Mysteries

(Recited Monday and Saturday)

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

The Visitation (Luke 1:39-45)

The Nativity (Luke 2:1-7)

The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-35)

The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

The Mysteries of Light

(Recited Thursday)

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-12)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion (Mark 1:14-15; 2:3-12)

The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)

The Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26-29)

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Recited Tuesday and Friday)

The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32-42)

The Scouring at the Pillar (Matthew 27:15-26)

The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27-31)

The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:15-17; Luke 23:27-32)

The Crucifixion (Luke 23:33-38, 44-46)

The Glorious Mysteries

(Recited Wednesday and Sunday)

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-8)

The Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-12)

The Assumption (1 Thessalonians 4:13-19)

The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1; 14:1-5; Isaiah 6:1-3)

Prayer concluding the Rosary

[Hail, Holy Queen, etc. as above]

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

*O God, whose only-begotten Son, by
his life, death and resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant,
we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries
of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we
may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise, through
the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Magnificat

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness; for
behold, from this day forward,
all generations will call me blessed.*

*For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy
is his name.*

*His mercy is from age to age for
those who fear him.*

*He has made known the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has
exalted those who are lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things, and
has sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel,
mindful of his mercy,
even as he promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his descendants for ever.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55).

It is sung daily at Evening Prayer.

Act of Faith

*My God, I believe in you
and all that your Church teaches, because
you have said it,
and your word is true.*

Act of Hope

*My God, I hope in you, for
grace and for glory,
because of your promises, your
mercy and your power.*

Act of Love

*My God, because you are so good, I
love you with all my heart,
and for your sake,
I love your neighbour as myself.*

