



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

(previously the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy)

Version 2.0

Mission Statement:

Our Catholic Community offers a learning environment for us to develop our God given talents and to recognize Christ amongst us. We respect the dignity of God's creation and, inspired by Gospel values, seek to serve one another.

Document Owner:	Deputy Headteacher Pastoral Head of Religious Education
Committee:	Student Wellbeing & Development
Frequency of Review:	12 to 18 months
Ratification by Governors:	Spring Term 2024

Rationale:

"The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first, our own step is always a response"

(The Catechism of the Catholic Church)

A daily act of prayer is not merely a statutory requirement but in St. Anselm's College is an integral element of the spiritual and prayer life of our community. Pupils are not ***"looking for text-book prayer, nor sentimentality, but for genuine conviction and evidence of someone else embarked on a spiritual journey and able to some extent, to articulate it"***.

(Where Two or Three are gathered in my name, *Cope et al*)

Prayer and liturgy lie at the heart of the Christian life. It is a living and personal relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit. Within St. Anselm's we root our prayer in the desire to live and teach in the light of the gospel.

"To ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy must be at the heart of its community life"

(To love You more dearly – The Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023)

Aims:

Prayer and Liturgy within St Anselm's offers opportunities to:

- consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- participate in Celebrations of the word, Liturgy, prayer, reflection and meditation
- experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- explore social, moral and spiritual values

PRINCIPLES

Acts of Prayer should be:

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils
- designed to actively engage pupils, and elicit a response and allow for silent reflection
- resourced and planned
- memorable and enjoyable
- a sense of occasion
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions

Liturgy:

Mass will be celebrated at appropriate Liturgical times and when possible weekly. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated during Advent and Lent.

CO-ORDINATION

The Head of Year co-ordinates a rota for the delivery of prayer within their year group using a thematic approach for each week of the school year. Resources for this are available from the Religious Education Faculty. Prayer should also take the opportunity to link to Catholic Social Teaching and The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice.

ORGANISATION

Assembly

Each year group will have one year group assembly and one Key Stage Assembly over the two week timetable cycle. In each of these assemblies prayer is led by the Head teacher, Head of Year, Form Tutor, a senior member of staff, visiting speakers. Prayer may also be led by the pupils under the guidance of a member of staff. Assembly should also take the opportunity to link to Catholic Social Teaching and The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice.

There is a clear distinction between time spent on the spiritual and business aspects of the assembly.

Tutor Group Prayer - Form Tutors lead a daily act of prayer during morning registration in their form rooms based on the theme for the week. This may also be led by pupils in the form.

STRATEGIES

It should be noted that there will be times when the weekly theme is inappropriate – due to current events such as in times of disaster or tragedy; these should be explored in prayer as they arise.

Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of prayer both in assemblies and in form groups.

Visiting Speakers

Visiting speakers form an important, if occasional, part of the prayer life of the college. They can offer a breadth and variety of prayer experiences for pupils.

INSET

INSET will take place where appropriate for staff development.

To love You more dearly

St Anselm's Catholic College adheres to the Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023

CONCLUSION

Prayer and liturgy is central to the Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of prayer and liturgy that is relevant, appropriate and life-giving. In so doing we would strive as a community to recognise "***the faithful God's initiative of love***" and to encourage and enable a true and genuine response.

Equality Statement

We have carefully considered the impact of this policy on all protected characteristics as part of our ongoing process to ensure that it is fair and does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil. This is in line with the Equality Act 2010.



St Anselm's College 2023-2024 Weekly Prayer Themes

Autumn term 1

- Week 1: New Beginnings, Adoremus
- Week 2: Education, The Triumph of The Cross
- Week 3: Mission Sunday
- Week 4: St. Vincent De Paul
- Week 5: St. Therese, Little Way Week = Harvest Festival = Family Fast Day
- Week 6: Wellbeing (World Mental Health day), St. Francis of Assisi
- Week 7: Our Lady of The Rosary, St. Teresa of Avila

Autumn term 2

- Week 1: All Saints & All Souls
- Week 2: Remembrance
- Week 3: Interfaith Week (Beginning 14th November) Anti-bullying Week
- Week 4: Selflessness, Christ The King
- Week 5: Seeking Refuge – Migrants & Refugees (First Sunday of Advent)
- Week 6: Advent – Preparing the way, The Immaculate Conception
- Week 7: Hope, Gaudete Sunday, OL of Guadalupe
- Week 8: Peace, The Nativity of The Lord

Spring term 1

- Week 1: Gifts, The Epiphany
- Week 2: Love your Neighbour, The Baptism of The Lord
- Week 3: Christian Unity
- Week 4: Holocaust Remembrance (Holocaust Memorial Day)
- Week 5: Racial Harmony and Justice
- Week 6: Love (St Valentine's Day 14/02/2024)

Spring term 2

- Week 1: Lent – Getting Ready
- Week 2: Fasting (Start of Lent 14/02/2024), Ash Wednesday & 1st Sunday of Lent
- Week 3: Forgiveness, Lent 2
- Week 4: St. Patrick & St. Joseph
- Week 5: Journey to the Cross, Laetare Sunday

Summer term 1

- Week 1: Our World, Holy week
- Week 2: Live Life to the full - The Resurrection, St. Anselm
- Week 3: Mary Mother of God (Start of May – Month of Mary), Eastertide
- Week 4 Go Spread the Good News, The Ascension
- Week 5: Pentecost, Courage & the Holy Spirit.
- Week 6: Unity (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – theme of Justice)

Summer term 2

- Week 1: God's Creation – World Environment Day (05/06/2024)
- Week 2: God's Family
- Week 3: Perseverance & Prayer
- Week 4: St Peter & St Paul
- Week 5: Joy
- Week 6: Youth
- Week 7: Thanksgiving (Thanks and Celebration for the Year)