



St. Anselm's College
Edmund Rice Academy Trust

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Version 2.1

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:	Headteacher
Committee:	Student Wellbeing & Development
Frequency of Review:	12 to 18 months
Ratification by Governors:	Autumn Term 2025

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:

- proclaim, 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 as far as possible on a weekly basis. 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 Chaplain in the staff shared area – prayer resources. Prayer should also take the opportunity to link to the Gospel scripture and weekly theme from 'The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice'. The Eight Essentials, rather than replacing Catholic Social Teaching, reflect the truths of the Church through the unique lense of our Christian Brother Charism.

ORGANISATION

Celebration of the Word/Assemblies:

Each year group will have one year group assembly and one Key Stage Assembly (Celebration of the Word) 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 or visitor. Prayer may also be led by the pupils under the guidance of a member of staff.

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.

Staff Development:

Training for staff will take place where appropriate for staff development. This will typically include refresher training on 'How to deliver effective Form time Prayer', 'The role of the Form Teacher' and whole staff training on 'Our distinctive Ethos and being an Edmund Rice College'. All new staff also take part in an induction programme which addresses our Ethos, prayer life and being part of a Catholic School. All new staff also attend an Edmund Rice Induction Day at the Edmund Rice office.

We ensure that all staff are introduced to the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and their integral connection to the Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education. This shared understanding highlights the significance of both frameworks and how, together, they form the foundation that underpins every aspect of our work and culture at the College.

To love You more dearly

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

CONCLUSION

Prayer and liturgy are foundational to the life and mission of St Anselm's Catholic College. By upholding the aims, principles and practices outlined in this policy, we seek to offer every pupil opportunities to encounter God in a meaningful and age-appropriate way, to deepen their spiritual understanding, and to grow as members of a faith-filled community. In nurturing a culture where prayer is authentic, reflective and rooted in the Gospel, we affirm our commitment to recognising **"the faithful God's initiative of love"** and supporting pupils in making their own sincere and personal response. Through this shared commitment, we ensure that prayer and liturgy continue to enrich the spiritual life of our College and shape the lives of all who belong to it.

St. Anselm's College 2025-2026 Weekly Prayer Themes

Autumn term 1

Week 1: Concern for the Whole Person, New Beginnings

Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, Canonization of St. Carlo Acutis

Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Week 4: Education for Justice, Feast of St. Mathew, International Day of Peace

Week 5: Compassion for Those in Need, St. Vincent de Paul
Week 6: Education as a Christian Calling, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Wilfred
Week 7: Building a Christian Community, Diocesan Year of Jubilee Icon

Autumn term 2

Week 1: Promoting the Spiritual, All Saints & All Souls
Week 2: Building a Christian Community, Remembrance
Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, World Day of Prayer for the Poor
Week 4: Education for Justice, Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Week 5: Evangelizing the Modern World, Advent Begins; St. Mathew, Nicholas
Week 6: Education as a Christian Calling, Advent, the Immaculate Conception
Week 7: Striving for Excellence, Gaudete Sunday, Christmastide

Spring term 1

Week 1: Building a Christian Community, The Epiphany, End of the Year of Jubilee
Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, The Baptism of The Lord
Week 3: Concern for the Whole Person, Christian Unity
Week 4: Education as a Christian Calling, Holocaust Remembrance, St. John Bosco
Week 5: Education for Justice, Presentation of the Lord, St. John Bosco
Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World, St Valentine, Our Lady of Lourdes

Spring term 2

Week 1: Striving for Excellence, Ash Wednesday
Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, St. David, Lent
Week 3: Concern for the Whole Person, Lent
Week 4: Compassion for those in Need, St. Patrick & St. Joseph, Mother's Day, Laetare
Week 5: Evangelizing the Modern World, St. Oscar Romero, The Annunciation, Eastertide

Summer term 1

Week 1: Promoting the Spiritual
Week 2: Building a Christian Community, St. Anselm, St. George
Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Joseph the Worker
Week 4: Education as a Christian Calling, Blessed Edmund Rice, The Ascension
Week 5: Promoting the Spiritual, Vocations Sunday
Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World, Our Lady Help of Christians

Summer term 2

Week 1: Building a Christian Community, Most Holy Trinity
Week 2: Concern for the Holy Person, Corpus Christi
Week 3: Education as a Christian Calling, Father's Day
Week 4: Education for Justice, St Peter & St Paul
Week 5: Striving for Excellence
Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World
Week 7: Promoting the Spiritual, End of the Year