

St Edmund Campion

Catholic Life and Mission Policy



'Hand in hand with Jesus Christ we live, love and learn together.'

School: St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School

Trust: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Hub: St Francis of Assisi Hub

Policy reviewed: July 2026

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Policy lead: Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher

Approved by Governors

Linked policies: Religious Education Policy, Prayer and Liturgy Policy, Behaviour Policy, RSHE Policy, SEND Policy, Equality Policy, British Values and Catholic Ethos Policy, Safeguarding Policy

1. Mission Statement

At St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School, our mission statement is the foundation of our Catholic Life:

“Hand in hand with Jesus Christ, we live, love and learn together.”

This mission shapes who we are, how we treat one another, how we learn, how we pray and how we serve. It reminds pupils, staff, governors, parents and the parish community that Christ is at the centre of our school.

Our school seeks to be a place where every child knows that they are loved by God, called to follow Jesus and invited to use their gifts in service of others. We aim to form pupils who are confident, compassionate and active disciples, ready to bring faith, hope, justice and love into the world.

2. Purpose of this Policy

This policy explains how Catholic Life is lived, led, evaluated and improved across St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School.

It sets out how we:

- live out our Catholic mission and identity;
- witness to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ;
- develop pupils’ prayer and spiritual life;
- celebrate the liturgical year;
- promote Catholic Social Teaching;
- support pupil leadership and chaplaincy;
- work with families, parish, diocese and Trust;
- monitor and improve Catholic Life across the school.

Catholic Life is not an additional part of school life. It is woven through the whole life of the school: relationships, curriculum, worship, leadership, behaviour, pastoral care, outreach and the environment.

3. Catholic Identity, Mission and Charism

St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School is part of the mission of the Catholic Church. We work in partnership with parents, parish, diocese and Trust to support the formation of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, academically and emotionally.

Our school is inspired by the witness of **St Edmund Campion**, whose courage, faithfulness and commitment to Christ continue to shape our identity. His example encourages us to be brave in faith, generous in service and truthful in the way we live.

Our mission is lived through:

- prayer and worship at the heart of the school day;
- a welcoming and inclusive Catholic community;
- a curriculum rooted in faith, truth and human dignity;
- Gospel values lived in relationships and behaviour;

- pupil leadership in worship, service and outreach;
- support for the poor, vulnerable and those in need;
- strong links with parish, families and the wider community.

We teach pupils that Catholic Life is not only about what we know, but how we live. Pupils are encouraged to recognise Christ in others and to respond through kindness, respect, forgiveness, justice and service.

Our school values are expressed simply and clearly:

- We work hard.
- We are kind.
- We show respect to everyone.

These values support pupils in living out the Gospel each day at school, at home and in the wider community.

4. The Catholic Environment

The school environment should clearly witness to our Catholic identity, mission and charism. All who enter St Edmund Campion should be able to see and feel that this is a Catholic school where Christ is at the centre.

We ensure that:

- the school mission statement is visible and understood;
- crosses or crucifixes are displayed in classrooms and shared spaces;
- prayer areas are present in every classroom;
- displays reflect Scripture, the liturgical year, saints, Catholic Social Teaching and pupil response;
- liturgical colours are used to mark the seasons of the Church year;
- Bibles, candles, cloths, symbols, images and prayer resources are used reverently;
- shared spaces celebrate Catholic identity, pupil leadership and charitable outreach;
- outdoor areas are used where possible for prayer, reflection and care for creation.

Class prayer areas are expected to be prayerful, well cared for and changed in response to the liturgical year. They should include appropriate signs and symbols such as a Bible, cross or crucifix, candle, cloth, religious image, prayer cards or pupil-created prayers.

Pupils are encouraged to help prepare and care for prayer spaces. This helps them understand that sacred spaces are important and that the physical environment can support prayer, reflection and encounter with God.

5. Prayer and the Spiritual Life of the School

Prayer is central to daily life at St Edmund Campion. It gives pupils and adults the opportunity to encounter God, listen to Scripture, reflect on their lives and respond in faith.

The school day is punctuated by prayer. Pupils and staff pray at key moments, including the beginning and end of the day and before meals. Prayer may be led by adults or pupils and may take different forms according to age and capacity.

Pupils are taught and encouraged to experience a variety of Catholic ways of praying, including:

- traditional Catholic prayers;
- spontaneous prayer;
- Scripture prayer;
- Lectio Divina;
- silence;
- meditation;
- reflection;
- the Rosary;
- liturgical music;
- prayer through art, symbol, drama, gesture and movement.



Pupils are helped to understand that prayer can be formal and informal, personal and communal, silent and spoken. They are taught to listen, reflect and respond with reverence.

Staff also have opportunities to pray together and to develop their own spiritual life. Staff prayer may take place during INSET, staff briefings, staff meetings, retreats or other planned moments of formation. This supports adults in modelling faith, reverence and prayerfulness for pupils.

6. Collective Worship, Prayer and Liturgy

Collective Worship and Prayer and Liturgy are at the heart of Catholic Life at St Edmund Campion. They provide regular opportunities for pupils, staff, families and the wider community to gather in faith.

Worship includes:

- daily class prayer;
- weekly Celebrations of the Word;
- Monday assemblies;
- key stage and whole-school worship;
- hymn practice and liturgical music;
- class liturgies;
- Masses;
- feast day celebrations;
- Advent, Lent, Holy Week and Easter celebrations;
- prayer services;
- reconciliation opportunities;
- Rosary and Marian devotion;
- retreats and chaplaincy-led worship.



Celebrations of the Word follow a clear structure so that pupils understand how Catholic worship is formed. The structure used is:

1. **Gather** – preparing hearts and minds for prayer.
2. **Listen** – hearing and reflecting on the Word of God.
3. **Respond** – praying, reflecting or acting in response to Scripture.
4. **Go Forth** – taking the mission of the Gospel into daily life.

Pupils are supported to plan, prepare, lead and evaluate worship. This may include choosing Scripture, preparing symbols, writing bidding prayers, leading responses, selecting music, creating reflections, leading silence or offering a mission for others.

Staff model high-quality worship and then gradually hand leadership to pupils, appropriate to their age and capacity. Pupils are taught that leading worship is a ministry and should be carried out with confidence, understanding, skill and reverence.

7. Pupil Leadership in Catholic Life

Pupils are not only participants in Catholic Life; they are leaders and witnesses.

Pupil leadership opportunities include:

- Chaplaincy Team;
- Mini Vinnies;
- pupil leadership groups;
- Eco Team;
- charitable outreach roles;
- peer support during worship and prayer.



Through these roles, pupils are encouraged to live as missionary disciples. They help others pray, support charitable action, care for creation, promote justice and strengthen the Catholic identity of the school.

Every child should have opportunities, appropriate to their age and capacity, to contribute to Catholic Life. This includes planning worship, preparing prayer spaces, evaluating liturgy, supporting younger pupils, taking part in charitable action and reflecting on how faith is lived in daily life.

Pupil leaders are supported by staff, chaplains and school leaders. They are trained, encouraged and given meaningful responsibilities rather than token roles.

8. Mass, Sacraments and the Liturgical Year

The liturgical year provides the rhythm for Catholic Life at St Edmund Campion. Pupils are helped to understand the seasons of the Church year and how each season invites us to pray, reflect and live differently.

The school marks key seasons and celebrations, including:

- Ordinary Time;
- Advent;
- Christmas;
- Lent;

- Holy Week;
- Eastertide;
- Pentecost;
- feast days;
- Holy Days of Obligation;
- the month of the Rosary;
- Marian devotion;
- November remembrance;
- the feast of St Edmund Campion;
- the school year's beginning and ending Masses.



Mass is central to Catholic life. Pupils are given regular opportunities to attend and participate in Mass in school and, where appropriate, in the parish. They are taught the structure and meaning of the Mass and are encouraged to take part through reading, singing, responding, serving, preparing symbols and writing prayers.

The school supports the parish sacramental programme and works in partnership with families and parish clergy. Parents are recognised as the first educators of their children in faith, and the school supports them in preparing children for the sacraments.

Advent and Lent are given particular importance as seasons of preparation, reflection and conversion. Pupils are encouraged to pray, give, reflect and act during these seasons. Holy Week is marked through prayerful and age-appropriate celebrations, helping pupils enter more deeply into the events of Christ's Passion, death and Resurrection.

9. Catholic Social Teaching and Outreach

Catholic Social Teaching helps pupils understand how faith must be lived in action. At St Edmund Campion, pupils are taught that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and deserves dignity, respect and love.

Pupils are encouraged to respond to the needs of others locally, nationally and globally. This includes charitable work, care for creation, community outreach, prayer for those in need and practical acts of service.

Catholic Social Teaching is promoted through:

- Religious Education;
- assemblies and worship;
- Mini Vinnies;
- CAFOD work;
- Harvest giving;
- Lent fundraising;
- care for creation;
- Eco Team initiatives;
- parish and community links;

- pupil-led social action;
- links across the wider curriculum.

Pupils are supported to understand the theology behind their actions. They are encouraged to ask:

- What does Scripture teach us?
- What does the Church teach us?
- Who is in need?
- How can we respond with love and justice?
- How can we make a difference?

Charitable action is planned carefully so that pupils are not only raising money, but also growing in compassion, solidarity and responsibility.

10. Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy strengthens the prayer, worship and spiritual life of the school.

The school works closely with the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust Chaplaincy team, who support pupils and staff through retreats, worship, prayer, liturgical formation and opportunities for discipleship.

Chaplaincy provision supports pupils to:

- encounter God's love;
- grow in relationship with Jesus Christ;
- understand discipleship;
- reflect on Scripture;
- lead worship;
- serve others;
- take part in retreats;
- develop confidence in prayer and liturgy.

Chaplaincy also supports staff formation by helping adults deepen their understanding of prayer, Scripture, liturgy and Catholic mission.

A chaplaincy timetable is planned so that pupils across the school benefit from regular opportunities for spiritual development.

11. Inclusion in Catholic Life

Every child is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every child must be welcomed, valued and supported to participate in Catholic Life.

Inclusion does not mean every pupil participates in exactly the same way. It means that every pupil is invited sincerely and supported appropriately.

Staff plan Catholic Life and worship so that pupils can participate through:

- speaking;

- reading;
- singing;
- listening;
- silence;
- gesture;
- movement;
- drawing;
- choosing symbols;
- preparing the prayer space;
- writing prayers;
- responding non-verbally;
- working with a peer or adult.

For pupils with SEND or additional needs, adaptations may include:

- visual cue cards;
- now/next prompts;
- simplified Scripture;
- shorter silences;
- sensory supports;
- alternative seating;
- adult preparation before worship;
- non-verbal leadership roles;
- prayer cards;
- use of symbols and artefacts;
- additional processing time.

No pupil should feel excluded from prayer, worship or Catholic Life because of confidence, language, additional need, faith background or personal circumstance.

12. Other Faiths, Dialogue and Respect

As a Catholic school, St Edmund Campion joyfully welcomes pupils and families from different faith backgrounds and none. Our welcome is rooted in the Gospel and in Catholic Social Teaching, especially human dignity, solidarity and the common good.

Collective Worship at St Edmund Campion is Catholic in character. Pupils from other faith backgrounds are invited to participate respectfully and appropriately. They are never pressured to take part in actions that conflict with their own beliefs, such as making the Sign of the Cross or saying specifically Catholic prayers.

The school promotes respectful dialogue and helps pupils understand the beliefs, practices and traditions of other faiths. Through the curriculum and wider Catholic Life, pupils encounter Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism in a respectful and age-appropriate way.

Pupils are helped to recognise shared values such as peace, justice, charity, fasting, gratitude, care for creation and love of neighbour, while also learning to respect real differences.

Parents and carers are encouraged to speak with school leaders if they have questions about prayer, worship or Catholic Life. The school works sensitively with families so that all pupils feel respected and included.

13. Parish, Parents and Wider Community

Parents are the first educators of their children in faith. St Edmund Campion works in partnership with parents and carers to support children's spiritual, moral and religious formation.

Parents and carers are invited to share in the Catholic Life of the school through:

- Masses;
- assemblies;
- Celebrations of the Word;
- class liturgies;
- feast day celebrations;
- Advent and Christmas events;
- Lent and Holy Week celebrations;
- sacramental preparation;
- parent voice;
- newsletters and website updates;
- home prayer opportunities.



The school maintains strong links with the parish. Parish clergy are regular and valued partners in the Catholic Life of the school, supporting Mass, prayer, sacramental preparation, parish worship and spiritual development.

The school also works with the Diocese of Nottingham, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, the St Francis of Assisi Hub, chaplaincy teams, charities and the wider community.

Through these partnerships, pupils learn that they belong to a wider Church family and that their faith is lived beyond the classroom.

14. Staff Formation

All staff contribute to the Catholic Life of the school. Staff are expected to support and uphold the Catholic mission and ethos of St Edmund Campion in the way they speak, act, teach, lead and care for pupils.

Staff formation includes:

- induction into the Catholic mission of the school;
- INSET linked to Catholic Life and Mission;
- training in prayer and liturgy;
- support with leading worship;
- Catholic Social Teaching development;

- opportunities for staff prayer;
- chaplaincy input;
- diocesan and Trust guidance;
- sharing good practice.

Staff are supported to understand the importance of Scripture, symbol, silence, prayer, liturgical music and pupil leadership. They are encouraged to model reverence, respect and active participation.

New staff receive support so that they understand the mission statement, Catholic ethos, prayer routines, worship expectations and the role of adults in forming pupils spiritually.

15. Leadership and Governance

Leaders and governors have responsibility for ensuring that Catholic Life remains central, visible and effective.

School leaders ensure that:

- Catholic Life is prioritised in school development planning;
- staff receive appropriate formation and support;
- pupils are given meaningful leadership opportunities;
- worship is well planned and evaluated;
- Catholic Social Teaching is promoted;
- parish, parent, diocesan and Trust links are maintained;
- Catholic Life is monitored regularly;
- action is taken where improvement is needed.

Governors support and challenge leaders by:

- receiving termly Catholic Life updates;
- visiting school to monitor Catholic Life and worship;
- speaking with pupils and staff;
- reviewing evidence of Catholic Life and Mission;
- checking progress against development priorities;
- supporting the school's Catholic identity and mission.

Leaders, including governors, seek to understand the different levels and skills of participation expected of pupils at each age and stage. This helps ensure that pupils are supported and challenged appropriately as they grow in confidence, understanding and leadership.

16. Monitoring, Evaluation and Improvement

Catholic Life is regularly monitored and evaluated so that strengths are celebrated and next steps are clear.

Monitoring may include:

- pupil voice;

- staff voice;
- parent voice;
- governor visits;
- learning walks;
- worship observations;
- book looks where relevant;
- prayer space checks;
- evaluation of Celebrations of the Word;
- review of pupil leadership;
- review of charitable outreach;
- chaplaincy feedback;
- monitoring of the liturgical calendar;
- review of Catholic Life reports and evidence.

Pupils contribute to evaluation in an age-appropriate way. They may complete worship evaluations, take part in pupil panels, offer feedback after class liturgies, suggest improvements or help plan future worship and outreach.

The school uses a simple “You said, we did” approach where appropriate so pupils can see that their feedback leads to change.

Evidence of Catholic Life may include:

- worship planning sheets;
- pupil evaluations;
- photographs;
- pupil reflections;
- governor reports;
- staff CPD records;
- chaplaincy notes;
- Catholic Life reports;
- examples of charitable action;
- pupil leadership records;
- displays and environment audits.

Findings from monitoring are used to inform the school’s Catholic Life action plan, staff training, governor reporting and future development.

17. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by school leaders and governors.

The review will consider:

- current diocesan guidance;
- Trust priorities;
- pupil, staff, parent and governor feedback;
- monitoring evidence;
- Catholic Life and Mission development priorities;
- the Annual Plan of Provision;
- the school's mission and charism.

The policy will be updated as needed to ensure it remains accurate, useful and faithful to the Catholic mission of St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School.

18. Concluding Statement

At St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School, Catholic Life is lived through prayer, worship, learning, service, relationships and witness.

We want every child to know that they are loved by God, called by name and able to make a difference. As a school family, we continue to walk **hand in hand with Jesus Christ**, living, loving and learning together.

