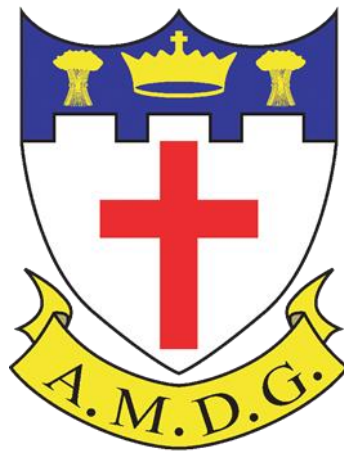


Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College



Approved by: Full Governing Body		Date: January 2024
Last reviewed on: N/A		
Next review due by: January 2026		

Mission Statement

AMGD 'For the greater glory of God'

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

Legal Requirements

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement; however, this is not a phrase we readily use in a Catholic context. Worship at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of college life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Assemblies offer opportunities for meaningful prayer. An assembly rota is produced each year and the liturgical calendar informs the planning of these 'liturgical assemblies.' Other themes focus on Catholic feasts and teachings as well as virtues within the Catholic Tradition. Whenever students gather in year groups the college prayer is always an important element of that time spent together. Each Year Group attends assembly once a week. Daily prayer on each other day of the week is guided by the Form Tutor.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our College

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Prayer and Liturgy is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Is it the intention that Prayer and Liturgy in our college will provide opportunity for all students 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 reflect and 'wonder at', 'come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All Acts of Worship at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- be appropriate to help to personalise the experience
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

The cycle of Prayer and Liturgy at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College

Daily and Weekly Worship

All students are guided through a morning Liturgy along with their Form Tutor every morning. Resources are provided by the RE and Catholic Life Team, and therefore all students and teachers begin each day united in worship. The Liturgy, following the liturgical calendar and themes transitions through a pattern of 'We Gather'; 'We Listen' (to the Word of God); 'We Respond' (in prayer) and 'We go Forth'. 'We go Forth' encourages the students to put their prayers and faith into action.

Students are involved in planning and leading worship during Form Time. They might be involved in decisions about prayer intentions, artefacts, music, meditation.

Students pray at the end of the day with their classroom teacher. All pray together a relevant prayer for the time of the liturgical year.

Once a week students of a year group attend an assembly in the main Hall. Each assembly begins with 5 minutes of silent reflection accompanied by calming and reflective music. The Head of Year or assembly leader then begins the assembly with the Sign of the Cross so that the whole of the activity and experience becomes a prayer. The assembly lasts for 30 minutes in total and is ended with the Sign of the Cross.

Each Thursday there is morning prayer in the chapel for staff at Blessed Edwards. Members of the staff chaplaincy team rotate in leading this morning worship.

Celebration of Mass

Every Friday lunchtime, students and teachers gather for voluntary Mass led by our college Chaplain Fr Stephen Squires. The Chaplaincy Team prepare and set- up the chapel and RE teachers invite their classes to lead the readings and prayers.

Each week there is a class Mass. RE teachers guide the class by exploring the message of the Gospel reading. The students then plan and lead their class Mass, writing prayers, selecting music, preparing items to be offered, considering the prayer space. In this way, students gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the rhythm of the prayers in Mass

and the significance of the different stages. All students and staff are invited to receive a blessing during Mass if they are unable to receive Holy Communion.

Community Masses and Liturgies

Throughout the Year there is the opportunity for students to come together to celebrate Mass as part of their Year group or Key Stage. There are Welcome Back Masses for Years 7-11; it is important that the community comes together at the start of a year bringing before God their hopes and aspirations for the year ahead. Staff come together yearly also to celebrate Mass.

There are further celebrations of Mass or Liturgies for major feasts and memorial days in the Church Calendar. (See Catholic Life Calendar). These include:

- Holy Days of Obligation that fall during term time: All Saints Day, Epiphany, Ascension and the Feast of St Peter and St Paul (29th June).
- Remembrance
- Blessed Edward Oldcorne's Feast Day
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent, including Ash Wednesday (where this falls during term time) and Stations of the Cross.
- Easter and Christmas
- Shared celebrations in local parishes e.g. Good Shepherd Mass at St George's Church

Throughout the year key events are marked in prayer. Such events include:

- Day of Prayer for Vocations and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
- Blessed Virgin Mary Liturgies
- Staff Retreat
- End of Year

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture is the focus in most acts of worship.
- 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 students, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship in a meaningful and purposeful way.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Each year members of SLT and leaders in RE monitor and evaluate the provision of morning prayer through our college initiative 'We have come to pray with you'. By joining in prayer with each tutor group, leaders are able to experience the way in which tutors lead and nurture prayer and create a reverent and spiritual environment. Tutors are given feedback and are supported in how to lead prayer through training.

Student questionnaires also provide an important insight into students' engagement in worship. The college seeks to closely monitor how well students are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

The creation of resources is overseen by the PICCL. There is a shared responsibility in the creation of these resources by the staff Chaplaincy Team. Many resources are accessible through Google Classroom however there is a central Chaplaincy office where artefacts, posters, books and other resources are stored. All staff know who to contact and how to access resources.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

There are a number of voluntary opportunities for worship throughout the year for all members of our community. These include:

- Voluntary Mass every Friday lunchtime
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent
- Staff morning prayer on Thursdays
- Retreats to Alton Castle and Soli House
- Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- Staff retreat/Walking Weekend
- Adoration

The Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

Mrs Sonya Thomas, Deputy Head teacher and the college PICCL holds overall responsibility for the provision of Prayer and Liturgy.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation/LGB Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Prayer and Liturgy which may at times form part of the college development plan
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Prayer and Liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Prayer and Liturgy

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Prayer and Liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Prayer and Liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Advisor

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Prayer and Liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Prayer and Liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently