

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Mission Statement

At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary, God is at the heart of our school
We try, everyday, to follow Jesus' commandment 'Love one another as I
have loved you'

We do this through love for our families, our friends, and our school

We respect our environment and recognise our responsibility for it

We encourage in each other a love of learning

We rejoice in each others' uniqueness

We place prayer and worship at the centre of everything we do

We are a community of love dedicated to God

Our school is somewhere **We** can grow together

The nature of Collective Worship

'God is at the heart of our school'.

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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness to the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In St Francis of Assisi School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship takes place rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher and religious education subject leader.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School.

Worship at St Francis of Assisi is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We aim to educate pupils to experience worship and liturgy but it must be a gradual process that seeks to involve them actively in ways suited to their age and stage of personal development.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship 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 a Christian community
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

The aims of Collective Worship

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when referring to 'Collective Worship' in schools. Collective Worship is the term used in legislation but in the Catholic context the terms 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are more familiar.

We believe that Collective Worship at St Francis of Assisi School aims to provide opportunity 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 the 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'

Principles

All Acts of Worship will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

All liturgies will include:

- Gathering
- Listening
- Responding
- Going Forth

Timetabled Acts of Worship

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | Prayer and liturgy led by the headteacher. Themes will be related to the liturgical year, Sunday Gospel, sacramental programmes and various faith traditions. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching will also be explored and celebrated. |
| Tuesday | Class led assemblies, which celebrate the work done in the classrooms. A short liturgy is always included. Parents of those class children leading the assembly are welcomed. When there is a week without a class led assembly, the headteacher organises a short liturgy and a hymn practice. |
| Wednesday | Hymn Practise with opening prayers for KS1 KS2 Class based liturgies |
| Thursday | Hymn Practise with opening prayers for KS2 KS1 Class based liturgies |
| Friday | Whole school Collective Worship organised and delivered by a member of the SLT. Celebration Collective Worship Prayers leads into a celebration of that week's achievements. |

Collective Worship and can be presented in a variety of forms.

They are prayerful and encourage an openness to God.

All assemblies begin with the Sign of the Cross, lighting of a candle and include some element of prayer, scripture and praise.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a termly liturgy/assembly planner
- Through displays, prayer and hymn sheets, photographs etc., class books.

Monitoring and Evaluating

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all the pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Each class teacher is expected to resource their class 'Prayer table' with appropriate key words and artefacts relating to the current topic.

Other resources which are available to the whole school at all times are kept and displayed on shelves at the end of the school hall.

Resources for class or whole school masses and liturgies such as candles, chalices etc. are stored in the cupboard opposite the maths area.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated by the whole school in the school hall.

We aim to have at least two whole school masses per term these include:

- Welcome Mass for all those who are new to the school – September
- St. Francis of Assisi feast day
- Remembrance Mass
- Mass of the new spring term
- Mass of the Risen Christ – April
- First Communion Mass in School June
- Leavers Mass - July

If the availability of a priest allows, class masses may take place.



At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship
- opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship

Appendix 1 - Worship Planning Sheet

| | | Think about... |
|--|--|---|
|  <p>We gather</p> | <p>We come together as part of God's family. Make everyone welcome! Sign of the Cross.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liturgical colours (Green, purple, white/gold, red) ▪ Prayer focus table ▪ Bible ▪ Cross ▪ Symbols/ objects/ pictures/ photos ▪ Candle ▪ Music ▪ Introducing theme |
|  <p>We listen</p> | <p>God speaks to us and we listen.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bible reading |
|  <p>We respond</p> | <p>We respond to the Word of God.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prayer ▪ Sing / listen to song ▪ Watch a film clip ▪ Reflection ▪ Sacred Silence ▪ Dance / drama ▪ Gesture / action ▪ CAFOD story ▪ Picture / photo ▪ Create ▪ Discuss with a partner |
|  <p>We go forth</p> | <p>How will we share the Good News?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gospel phrase ▪ Song ▪ Learn about CAFOD ▪ Tell others about CAFOD ▪ Action ▪ Campaign ▪ Prayer card ▪ Artefact ▪ Picture ▪ Big question |

Appendix 2

Prayer Experiences

Pupils are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, which are developed in ways which are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

| Type: | Example: |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Praying the psalms | <i>'I thank you for the wonder of my being' [Psalm 139]</i> |
| Traditional prayers | <i>Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary</i> |
| Repetitive prayer [mantra] | <i>'Jesus, I love you', repeated several times, slowly</i> |
| Meditation | <i>Scripture reflection with use of imagination</i> |
| Bodily prayer | <i>raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting</i> |
| Prayer of the heart Contemplation | <i>stillness to listen to God: 'Be still and know that I am God.' looking at trees, a sunset, an icon etc.</i> |
| Gestures | <i>the sign of the cross, the sign of peace</i> |
| Hymns | <i>traditional and modern hymns</i> |
| Music | <i>listening to quiet, reflective music</i> |
| Litanies | <i>For all creation: Thanks be to God</i> |
| Processions | <i>Gospel procession with sung 'alleluia'</i> |
| Prayer services and liturgies | <i>formal and spontaneous prayer using holy water, candles, incense and other symbols</i> |
| Celebrations | <i>prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done</i> |

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the head teacher and religious education subject leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

RE Subject Leader Alannah Batchelor 2023

Reviewed June 2023

Next Review Date: June 2024