

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## Mission Statement

*At St Francis of Assisi, we believe God is at the heart of our school. As a school community, we work together to provide a caring, stimulating and nurturing environment, where every child can discover their true potential and grow closer to Christ. As pupils and staff we encourage in each other a love of learning. This is a place where we can all belong and where diversity and difference is celebrated. We rejoice in each others' uniqueness and respect the dignity and beauty of each individual. Using our gifts and talents we will actively seek to make a real difference - by caring for one another and caring for our world.*

## **The nature of Collective Worship**

Christ 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.
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.
Thursday	Class based liturgy organised by the class teacher and pupils on a theme relevant to the pupils. In KS1&2 the pupils are encouraged to organise their own liturgy based on the Wednesday Word.
Friday	Whole school Collective Worship organised and delivered by the head teacher. Celebration Collective Worship A short liturgy (liturgical calendar, C&S, EPR) 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, purificators 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**

Gathering together

*Environment [mood, seating, etc.]*

*Focus:*

*Music:*

*Introduction*

The Word of God

Action / Response to the Word

*A ritual or movement that fits the theme in which everyone can join (e.g. Shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, reflection etc.)*

Mission / Going forth

*The sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.*

Resources

## 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.

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
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 E Keating June 2019

Review Date: June 2020