

St Francis of Assisi Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16.

Our school vision has this Bible passage deeply rooted within. Children in our school will value everyone as unique individuals and celebrate the distinctive and diverse nature of our community and the wider world. They will aspire to greater heights and continue to flourish beyond our school community. They will use the powerful knowledge they have gained to grow into valuable citizens whilst demonstrating resilience, determination, adaptability and being shining lights to others. Our school is laying the foundations for pupils to flourish and ‘live life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).

Our Aims focus on LIGHT as we,
“Live, love and learn together in the light of Christ”
and link with the Church of England’s national vision for ‘Education for life in all its fullness’.
We demonstrate this through:

Love of all

Ignite the light of Christ around all our children

God at the centre of everything we do

Happiness

Truth

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Therefore Collective Worship at St Francis of Assisi Church of England Primary School aims:

- To be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- To regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values.
- To have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.

- To help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- To challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness.
- To contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".
- To be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

This policy has been created in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines and support materials which provide more in depth explanation and support.

As spirituality is such an integral part of our school, importance is placed on the planning, delivery and evaluation of high quality Collective Worship. Staff, pupils, governors and members of the school community come together through Worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values and to demonstrate the mutual respect between all.

Through Worship, children develop an understanding of how Christian teachings relate to our lives today; an understanding of the concept of faith, self-worth, the ability to communicate, question, enquire, think and reflect.

Worship is linked with worth and worthiness. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the 'worship' of certain realities and values and held to be a central importance to the community that worships.

In addition to worship within school, classes participate in worship at St Francis of Assisi church on a regular basis. There are also opportunities for the whole school to worship at the church throughout the academic year.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. Parents' contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given on the school website.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Staff planning and leading Collective Worship ensure that all pupils are fully included and have equal opportunities to access all elements.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting the candle.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a four stage structure of planning including 'gathering', 'engaging', 'responding', 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. Pupils are involved in a monitoring group as are a range of adults connected to the school. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

Mrs Hunt, one of the school's governors, has a role monitoring Collective Worship through discussions with pupils, staff, joining with whole school worship as well as other forms of evaluation.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. Examples include 'Out of the Box Worship', 'Roots and Fruits' (both available on www.imaginer.co.uk). Collective Worship is daily but includes whole school, year group and team acts of worship. The programme of acts of Collective Worship and themes for worship are coordinated by Mrs Williams and Mrs Casey.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held four times a week. These are taken by a range of teachers throughout school. Class / Key Stage worship is held once a week. These are taken by teachers within the Key Stage

Visitors have included Father Clay, Open the Book, Salvation Army, people from local churches.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

The vicar is involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after their worship, to develop and improve their practice. Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. It plays an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).