



St Francis
CofE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

We want to ensure that your needs are met.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact us on
01637 303106 or email info@kernowlearning.co.uk.

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Christian Distinctiveness

At St Francis Church of England Primary School, our vision is for, 'every person matters, every person helps, every person succeeds' and based on the Church of England's vision for education:

'Deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart'.

Aims

The aims and objectives of collective worship at St Francis are:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- To be inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.
- Develop an online resource base for worship using our YouTube channel.

General Principles

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion showing reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly – we refer to this as our collective worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in our collective worship. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be either a whole-school, a key stage, year group or a class assembly of pupils for worship. We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the message, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Our acts of worship and assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and reflect on our school vision - enabling every child to flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally.

Worship plays an important part in promoting the Christian values of the school which are linked to relevant bible stories. On some occasions a class or year group hold an assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

Our act of worship is led by members of staff or priests, ministers and other invited visitors such as Open The Book volunteers and clergy from Carnmath South Deanery. Also, we train a group of Year 6 pupils to be Worship Leaders to lead the assemblies themselves. Worship is shared with governors, parents and members of local churches on specific occasions and as often as possible.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
EYFS, KS1	Picture News/British values and Protected Characteristics	Collective worship with HT/HLT in the hall	Class based values worship led by class teacher	Singing worship in the hall	Celebration collective worship (alternating class/hall)
KS2	Collective worship with the HT/DHT in the hall	Picture News/British values and Protected Characteristics	Singing worship in the hall	Class based values worship led by class teacher	Celebration collective worship (alternating class/hall)

The planning of Worship

Worship is planned to take account of the major festivals and seasons of the Church, and to link with the curriculum plan and Christian Values plan. It also covers other initiatives or topics of interest within the school. Plans are made annually, are reviewed half termly and aim to provide continuity and progression, without undue repetition. Opportunities are considered to develop spirituality over a period of time. For each half term, there is a theme for collective worship based on the particular value for the term; those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme.

Those responsible for leading worship include the head and deputy head, members of clergy from local churches, teachers and the children themselves plan and deliver times of collective worship. The theme is supported, taught and illustrated through bible stories which the children learn and then apply to themselves. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach it from their own perspective. Resources to aid and guide planning include 'Imaginer – Roots and Fruits', picture news as well as online content drawn from assemblies.org.

Children and families are also encouraged to continue exploring the theme for collective worships at home each term through home packs that are provided. This will mean that by the end of the period, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers are also encouraged to develop their worship from events that occur on the curriculum or in the news during the week. We use the resource, Picture news, to aid this. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Any act of worship should be an experience which is inclusive and where all children can contribute and gain.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly however any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. In this case the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, however, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The collective worship co-ordinator keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship. In addition each class teacher keeps a record, in their planning, of all class worship that take place.

Format

There is no hard and fast format as it is essential that acts of worship have a degree of spontaneity and flexibility but the following elements are desirable:

- The act will have a clear focus or theme
- There will be time for reflection and stillness
- As much as possible, worship will follow this 4 step approach: **Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending.**
- A hymn or song related to the main theme of worship may be sung at an appropriate place
- Recorded or live music may be used to create an atmosphere or focus
- A greeting is exchanged between the leader and participants

- Included in worship may be stories, Bible readings, dramatised readings, poetry, drama, dance, artefacts or other visual aids
- At an appropriate point, prayers are said. These may be drawn from published works or from the children themselves
- Any notices etc, will be clearly separated from the Act of Worship. This is also the case when a special time is set aside to acclaim children who have made special achievements.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating

Whole school acts of worship are planned, recorded and evaluated with documentation kept in a separate file. Adam Richards is the Collective Worship Lead and provides guidance and support by organising whole school themes across the year. Adam Richards plans and leads whole school worship, developing the role of the Worship Leaders across the year. Acts of worship held by individual classes are shared by paired teachers to keep consistency. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. **Every Collective worship will be evaluated** using MS Forms. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils. Paperwork is kept to a minimum to support teachers' workload. There are specific times across the year when the whole school will focus on a united theme which will permeate many different aspects of school life; e.g. Commonwealth Day, Trafalgar Day. The foundation governors have a key role in monitoring of collective worship to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

Conclusion

At St Francis, all should view collective worship as meaningful and valuable, a time when all adults and children are as one to reflect on joys, and sorrows, to express thanks, share concepts and experience and re-affirm the values of the school community and God's family, of which they are all part.