



Collective Worship Policy

Policy drawn up by Headteacher and Foundation Governors and Agreed by Staff and Governors

Date adopted: November 2005

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Policy Document Version Control Log

Policy:		
Version	Date	Description of changes and person/organisation responsible

Introduction

St Francis Church of England Primary School is a voluntary aided school catering for children from the ages of 3 to 11, that opened in September 2004. Children at the school come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds and with a variety of experience of religious commitment.

Our act of collective worship is Christian in character. It concentrates largely on those inclusive beliefs, traditions, and values that exemplify the ethos, mutuality and community of the school and reflects the vision of our school as outlined in the school's trust deeds ethos statement and school's vision.

Ethos statement from the trust deed

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

School Vision (see appendix 4)

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22:39)

We believe that children are a gift from God and each one is unique with their own potential and character.

Our school is a diverse community where equality and collaboration are celebrated and where children flourish and develop curiosity and resilience through opportunity and spiritual moments underpinned by a broad and exciting curriculum so that children are ready to take their place in the world.

We want our children to develop a sense of LOVE for learning, a LOVE for each other, a LOVE for God and a LOVE for the world.

Legal requirements

The school's Trust Deed states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.'

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by

parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by confirmation and withdrawal. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

The daily act of collective worship can be held at any time in the school day and can be a single act for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups (E.R.A. 1988 s.6 paragraphs 2 and 7).

‘Worship’ is not defined in the legislation but must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and should be concerned with deep respect paid to a divine being or power. However, collective worship in school is necessarily of a different character from corporate worship amongst a group with beliefs in common (DFE circular 1/94 paragraph 57).

Our Aims

In our times of collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

In addition to these broad aims, our collective worship also aims to:

- Foster a spirit of belonging within the school.
- Enable pupils to learn about and reflect on Christian teaching and festivals.
- Provide opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community.
- Enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Provide opportunity to explore and share beliefs.
- Provide opportunity, time and encouragement for reflection.

The structure for collective worship

The act of collective worship is a special time of day for our school community. It is inclusive (taking account of children’s age, aptitude, and backgrounds). It may take place in the school hall, in the classroom or in the school grounds. The weekly pattern for assemblies and collective worship is shown in Appendix 1.

There is a four-year program of themes for our times of worship planned by the coordinator, in consultation with the teaching staff. The coordinator then plans termly. The use of themes/values allows for continuity between the different acts of worship which take place each week. Some of the themes are of an explicitly Christian nature, others are broader and can be interpreted in different ways. The programme is also based upon the church calendar. The programme ensures that the balance each term provides for the majority of acts of worship to be of a wholly Christian character. Reference is also made in the program to significant dates in other religious calendars and cultural events and foci such as anti-bullying.

Authorised church ministers and people from the community are invited to lead the act of collective worship on a regular basis. Visitors are asked to plan worship based upon an aspect of the theme.

Teacher resources are kept in the staff room. These resources contain ideas and references for each theme. The themes are evaluated regularly and may be retained, amended or replaced.

The coordinator regularly evaluates. This is done through adult and pupil voice. A summative assembly may be held when each class can present what they have gained/learned from recent themes.

Our Nursery may join the whole school for collective worship where appropriate as the school year progresses, in particular for special occasions such as the leavers worship/assembly. A short time of reflection is set aside during the Nursery Day for our younger pupils.

Planning an act of worship

The collective worship co-ordinator maintains a document containing guidelines for leading collective worship and members of staff responsible for leading Collective Worship on a given theme. Currently worship is based upon Roots and Fruits materials and Values for Life materials but it can refer to other Collective Worship resources, or the internet websites.

See Appendix 2 for rota.

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. An act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from the children even though on a particular occasion some of the children may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship at that moment in time.

To create a sense of 'special time and place' music should be played at the beginning of an act of worship.

The act of collective worship itself may consist of a time of stillness or reflection and a prayer (which may have been written by a pupil). It may also involve a reading, some drama, music, and singing, sharing each other's achievements, visual presentations, recorded items or a combination of these elements.

Parents are invited to attend special events (in the church and in the school hall), class and sharing celebrations.

Children are involved in preparing specific acts of collective worship e.g. Remembrance, and items for acts of worship e.g. prayers, poems. Children lead the liturgy during the worship at the weekly Celebration Assembly, with classes taking turns to do this. Children are involved and present Seasonal services e.g. Harvest, Ash Wednesday. Pupils may be called upon to lead the liturgy at the start of worship or to contribute in other spontaneous ways e.g. questions, acting.

Assembly Monitors are selected from Year 6 to help facilitate the running of Collective Worship. They specifically prepare the hall, run the computer system and may participate e.g. leading the liturgy or prayers.

Appendix 3 for Liturgy and expected structure

The Nature of Worship

It is a Special Occasion that:

- Uses a wide variety of resources and approaches, music art etc.
- Has a special atmosphere.
- Is different to the rest of the day.
- Sometimes contains a spiritual dimension using the OWs, WOWs and NOWs model, prayer and reflection.

It is Inclusive:

- An activity and experience for all.
- Each child can contribute.
- All can take part/respond.
- It includes other ideas from other faiths as well as acknowledging key national and international events

It contributes to R.E and SMSC development by:

- Having a distinct link to R.E.
- Developing spirituality through the OWs, WOWs and NOWs model.
- Using the pattern of the Church year.
- Using and exploring elements from a faith group, particularly Christianity

It is Curricular because it is:

- Planned, prepared and evaluated.
- Researched and financed.
- An intentional learning experience.
- A unique part of the curriculum.

It is Educational because it:

- Broadens children's knowledge of the Bible.
- Broadens children's knowledge of other religions.
- Broadens children's knowledge of National and International events.

It is Shaped by:

- Being rooted in Christian tradition.
- Being delivered to groups that fit the school.
- Timings, where it is set and the style of delivery.

The role of the Collective Worship Coordinator

The role of the coordinator is to:-

- Monitor the provision of resources for collective worship.

- Lead in the development, monitoring and evaluation of the school's policy on collective worship and the annual plan of assembly themes, in consultation with the Headteacher, teaching staff and governors.
- Provide school-based INSET, where appropriate, based on staff needs.
- Report to the Foundation Governors on the approach and impact of collective worship through the school.

Evaluating Collective Worship

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship at St Francis is carried out on an ongoing basis by staff and pupils, and annually by the Foundation Governors.

Resources

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator maintains the resources for collective worship and evaluates the effectiveness and appropriateness of worship themes, making changes where appropriate.

Evaluation by Foundation Governors

The Foundation Governors and Head periodically evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship, with a particular focus on whether worship:

- Meets legal requirements;
- Follows the school's collective worship policy;
- Is appropriately planned and followed through;
- Engages pupils, and is valued by them;
- Influences pupils' attitudes and behaviour.

This evaluation involves:

- Viewing the termly collective worship rota
- Observing a range of different types of collective worship events
- Reviewing the collective worship record book and evaluation sheets
- Speaking to staff and pupils
- Discussions with the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

This evaluation normally takes place annually, at a meeting of the Foundation Governors' during the Autumn terms. Any recommendations are agreed with the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and Head.

The minutes of the meeting set out the matters considered and the outcome of the evaluation. These minutes are presented to the Full Governing Body. Recommendations are then tracked by the Foundation Governors, with progress reports being provided by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

APPENDIX 1

Times for our Collective Worship

Monday (2.50 pm)	-	Whole School
Tuesday (2.50 pm)	-	KS 1 collective worship, KS2 Circle Time/Class Assembly
Wednesday	-	Year Group Assemblies
Thursday (2.50 pm)	-	KS 2 collective worship, KS1 Circle Time/Class Assembly
Friday (2.40 pm)	-	Whole School Celebration Assembly/Time of Worship

APPENDIX 2

Timetable for Values themes and Collective Worship topics

Year	Bible theme for the year	Terms 1&2		Terms 3&4		Terms 5&6	
		<u>Kindness</u>		<u>Courage</u>		<u>Character</u>	
		Value	Liturgical	Value	Liturgical	Value	Liturgical
21/2	Miracles	Generosity	Harvest, Remembrance Advent Christmas	Perseverance	New year Epiphany Lent Easter	Respect	Pentecost Ascension
22/3	Lord's prayer / psalms	Compassion Kindness		Courage		Service	
23/4	Parables	Thankfulness		Justice Hope		Trust	
24/5	Bible Characters	Friendship		Forgiveness		Truthfulness	
			Children in need		Red nose		Sports' day

Expectations for collective worship

1. House captains or assembly monitors will normally prepare the hall. They need to be informed of any music, power points, readings and song etc. [please bring items on a memory stick, youtube is restricted]
2. Songs should be selected to support the focus of the assembly. (There is a selection of songs – notable Karaoke Assembly)
3. Music, lighting and seating should be considered to set the tone for worship. Pupils and adults are expected to arrive calmly and quietly.
4. Below is the liturgy used to introduce collective worship..
5. Pupils can open worship.
6. Worship may include.
 - a. Prayer, b, song, c, teaching (in varied forms), d, reflection.
7. Worship should be ordered to support the theme.
8. Worship should include a time to reflect.
9. Worship should be mindful that our community is made of practising Christians, children of Christian heritage, pupils of no faith, and pupils from other faiths (e.g. Muslim, Sikh, Hindu.) Pupils are free to participate as they feel comfortable or to respectfully observe. It is important to clarify the source of belief e.g. Christians believe.....

APPENDIX 3

Format for children opening and closing collective worship

Greetings	Leader	Response
Music	Calming music or music linked to the theme to be used	
	My name is Good afternoon (morning) everyone	<i>Good afternoon (morning) Good afternoon (morning) all.</i>
	This is the day the Lord has made	<i>Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</i>
Alternatives	The Lord is with you. The peace of the Lord be with you.	<i>And also with you. And also with you.</i>
Introductory liturgy	On our table we have: A cross- which reminds us of God's love; (the arch illustrates this) A Bible - which tells God's story; A Ugandan bowl filled with a pebble for each of us – this reminds us that we are one St Francis family – (reminds us of our friends in Uganda) A Kintsugi bowl which reminds us that spirituality or God being with us is like the golden glue which has filled the gaps to mend the bowl Three candles - that remind us of our one God God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. <i>Amen</i>	
	.	

Song	Our song today is It was chosen because.....	
Prayer	Let us pray	<i>Children show that they are ready to pray.</i>
	We will say our new school prayer	Dear Lord, We pray that today, on our journey, we will; Gain more wisdom in our hearts; Attain the very best in our learning; And continue to Grow into the characters You want us to be. Amen.
Friday Celebration	The class leading the prayer should prepare 3 prayer linked by the phrase Lord in your kindness	<i>hear our prayer.</i>
	This should be followed by the school Prayer	Oh Lord, Bless our school, that working together and playing together we may learn to serve you and to serve one another. Amen
Additional	The Lord's Prayer, Our Father	Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as in heaven above. Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us, Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours Now and forever more. Amen
At the end of worship	Today we have thought about(what we have done well) (our value of ...(the story of) Go now in peace and safety.	<i>Amen</i>
	Appropriate music should be played for the children to leave.	

Appendix 4

Our School Vision

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22:39)

We believe that children are a gift from God and each one is unique with their own potential and character.

Our school is a diverse community where equality and collaboration are celebrated and where children flourish and develop curiosity and resilience through opportunity and spiritual moments underpinned by a broad and exciting curriculum so that children are ready to take their place in the world.

We want our children to develop a sense of LOVE for learning, a LOVE for each other, a LOVE for God and a LOVE for the world.

LOVE: for God, each other, learning and the world

LOVE

- *A Love for God - inviting exploration of ourselves and our spirituality, kindness, resilience, and perseverance.*
- *A Love for each other - appreciating each other's characters and the equality and diversity of our community whilst participating fully in our school and wider family.*
- *A Love of learning - flourishing through a broad and exciting curriculum filled with inspiring opportunities and where courage to make mistakes is supported.*
- *A Love for the world – understanding and participating in the world through collaboration and courage to make a difference.*

Our vision is underpinned by the following passage from the Bible:

The Great Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, ³⁵ and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. ³⁶ "Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" ³⁸ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. ³⁹ The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' ⁴⁰ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Our school prayer embodies our vision:

Dear Lord

We thank You for the gift of life and love.

Help us to always be kind to ourselves and to each other.

Give us courage to love our neighbours near and far.

Through Your love, we ask You to help us to develop into the characters You want us to be.

Amen

Our school vision is also supported by the Liturgical Calendar; the sharing of Bible stories; festivals and events from other faiths; national and international cultural events.

The school's 3 core principles **Kindness, Courage and Character** continue this support.

Kindness –

This is a principle that runs through Christian teaching. It is especially illustrated in the concepts of love and of grace.

Ephesians 4 v32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

This is the focus in terms 1&2

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar, and cultural events of this time of year; Harvest; All Saints Day; Advent; Christmas; St Francis day; Remembrance Day; Children in Need;

It is also explored through the values of: **friendship; generosity; compassion; thankfulness.**

Courage –

This is also a theme that runs through Christian teaching perhaps clearly illustrated through the death of Jesus.

Deuteronomy 31 v6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

This is the focus for terms 3 & 4.

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar, and cultural event of this time of year; New Year; Lent; Easter; Red Nose Day.

It is also explored through the values of: **forgiveness; perseverance; courage; justice.**

Character-

This is summarised in the mission statement

"where God's gifts begin their journey to gain, attain and grow into lifelong learners.

It reflects the desire to support pupils achieve their potential in all areas of life. To equip them to have a preparedness, acceptance and resilience for life.

Colossians 1:10 "Live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

Jeremiah 17 v7&8 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a **tree** planted by the water that sends out its **roots** by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit"

This is the focus for terms 5&6.

It is developed through the events of the Liturgical calendar, and cultural event of this time of year; Ascension; Pentecost; Sport's Day.

It is also explored through the values of: **truthfulness; respect; service; trust.**

The School's vision also supports the **Church of England's vision for education** "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good," based upon John 10 v10, "I have come that they may have life in all its fullness."