

St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy



Our vision is that St Francis, through its Christian ethos, will be dedicated to the community that it serves and will provide:

- New exciting ways of learning to equip people with skills for life
- A nurturing and inspirational environment
- A caring community

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' – John 14:6

Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed: June 2024

Review Date: June 2027

Revision Record

Revision No.	Date Issued	Comments
1	June 2024	Reviewed policy - KM
2		
3		

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In accordance with the statutory requirement and the Instrument of Government for the Academy, the Governing Body:

- Considers Collective Worship to include both prayer and liturgical celebrations, the purpose of which is to open the heart and mind to God;
- Requires that, in promoting links between home and Academy and parishes, all such prayer and worship should be conducted within the Traditions of the Roman Catholic and the Church of England and should follow the common liturgical cycle;
- Sees a close relationship but clear distinction between the Acts of Collective Worship and Academy assemblies concerned with other aspects of Academy life;
- Expects that all pupils be present at an Act of Collective Worship each day;
- Requires that designated time should be allocated to Acts of Collective Worship for the whole Academy, phases of the Academy and individual classes and that this time should be discrete from time devoted to curriculum and registration;
- Considers it to be desirable that the Eucharist from both Traditions should be available to staff and pupils as deemed appropriate by both Bishops and their local clergy.

Religious Education Policy

St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy

Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' John 14:6

Mission Statement

A Christian Academy that serves its local community

Inspiring values for life and lifelong learning
Nurturing spirituality, respect for self and others
Pursuing excellence for all through Teaching and Learning
Challenging all children to achieve to the very best of their ability
Enabling all to recognise and celebrate their Gifts and Talents

St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy strives to work in partnership with the home and Church to initiate the children of the parish into the Catholic and Anglican faith traditions whilst, at the same time, maintaining the highest aims and expectations within the national education system.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a faith academy 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.¹

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² This can take place at any time during the Academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in Academy groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, 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 this Academy responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Principal.

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in Academies. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic or Anglican context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a faith Academy, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy

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 the academy may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of academy life and central to the Christian tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship.

We believe that Collective Worship in our academy 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 religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of both Catholic and Anglican traditions
- 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 in this academy will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the academy and its Christian character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.³ In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

- be short and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective Worship takes place as indicated below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS2	Whole academy Worship led by Principal or nominated teacher	Class Worship	Key Stage Worship Led by teachers or Clergy	Class Worship	Whole academy Celebration Reflection Worship
EYFS/KS1					

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, St Francis RE topics that are based upon the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth 'God Matters', Understanding Christianity and the IOW RE Syllabus Living Difference IV, significant dates, Feast Days, Saints Days, etc. and the curriculum.
- With scripture as the focus in most acts of worship using the readings of the day (from the Children's Daily Prayer Book).
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community.
- To develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

The Range of Collective Worship, Prayer and Liturgy

Collective Worship may be used to develop Religious Knowledge or as an experience of prayer and liturgy.

Assemblies will take two forms:

- ❖ Class/Key Stage led Collective Worship which will be the responsibility of the class teacher and based on the liturgical year, our academy Values and other appropriate topics.
- ❖ Principal led Collective Worship which will vary in content dependant on topical events and time of the year.

Prayer in the classroom

Prayer in the classroom will take place morning, lunchtime and afternoon and at any other time, at the discretion of the teacher. Prayer will consist of both formal and informal forms and a daily collective act of worship takes place in the classroom on the days when there is no whole academy worship using the readings of the day for Key Stage Two and age appropriate prayers for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

Each classroom is provided with a focal point for prayer and all classes are in possession of the Oscar Romero Cross from San Salvador and a Crucifix. It is left to the class teacher to display these in a suitable manner. Throughout the academy there is a selection of iconography and religious displays.

Liturgy, Masses and Morning Praise

When preparing these celebrations we follow the guidelines set by the document Liturgy of the Word with Children Guidelines and our Parish priest and vicars as a basis for our practice.

- Year 6 children celebrate a Leavers' service at the end of the Summer term.
- Teachers and children celebrate the Portsmouth Diocese annual Schools Mass together.
- There is a whole academy focus every day during Holy Week (or in the week preceding the end of term if it falls within the Easter Holiday), which is open to parents and parishioners.
- The whole academy participates annually in Christmas and Easter Celebrations.
- As an academy that serves children of both Catholic & Church of England faith traditions, as well as other faith traditions or none, we look to developing opportunities for children to celebrate their faith through Masses and Services

Easter- a week for focused reflection

There is a clear, shared focus upon the events of Easter week giving the children the opportunity to reflect on the Easter Story. The organisation of the classroom activities will be the responsibility of the class teacher. Each year we look to find a new and special way of celebrating these special events.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The academy's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

All mass, morning praise and assembly resources can be found in the RE and Collective Worship resources cupboard.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Miss K Mather

Policy Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and Principal. It will be reviewed every three years or sooner if the SIAMS framework is changed.