



## WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Frances Olive Anderson is a Church of England Aided School. Our collective worship is almost exclusively Christian, although there are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship e.g. festivals, holy days etc. A range of ministers from different denominations are invited to take assemblies. Although we are a Church of England Aided School, we welcome the wider perspective provided by other denominations.

The Collective Worship Policy at our school follows the guidance of:

- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Worship
- Lincolnshire LA Guidance on Church Aided Schools

*'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'* (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)

ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **Policy Statement**

At Frances Olive Anderson Church of England (Aided) Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

*'Being Different Belonging Together'*

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### **Christian Values**

We identify with our whole school Values for Life which are listed in Appendix 1. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

*John 13:34-35*

*"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".*

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### **Values Education**



We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the Government Circular Number 1/94 which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## **The Purpose of Collective Worship**

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on Values for Life and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.

## **Objectives of Collective Worship**

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

## **Principles of Assembly / Collective Worship**

Assemblies should be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- They should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- They should match the needs of pupils
- They should foster a sense of community

Assemblies should be educational. They should:

- Be learning experiences
- Be related to pupils' own experiences



- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Assemblies should be spiritual:

- Time to be still and reflect
- A special time - conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- They should include a variety of words, music and images
- They should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship.

### Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher

Tuesday: Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday: Class or Teacher led worship, including parents' assemblies.

Thursday: Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Music Subject Leader

Friday: Whole school celebration assembly led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday and Tuesday's collective worship reflect our Values for Life focus for that term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is displayed for the children to see throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments.

The candle on the special table is lit and the worship begins, usually with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. Children's birthdays are celebrated and the candle is then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to



make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Wednesday's worship is a chance for children to celebrate their work with their parents, each class leading worship three times per year. The candle is always lit and there is time for prayers / reflection. At other times the worship is led by teachers on a rota basis and reflects our current Value for Life or a current issue or festival.

Thursday's hymn practice includes the lighting of the candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

The Celebration Assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Children and classes receive special mentions and certificates. This takes place after the children have sung the hymn and the candles have been lit. The assembly ends when a prayer is said and the candle is blown out.

In the school there is much to say thankyou for, much to praise, much to hope and request. We place these as high priorities.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the School Prayer, Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed at the front of the hall.

At the end of morning lessons, Grace is said by the children in each class.

The school has a Prayer Box, in the hall. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and put them in the box. Sometimes these are related to the Value for the term, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

A diary is kept, recording each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. The School Council will also evaluate the impact of worship annually. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.



## Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Frances Olive Anderson CE Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Helens' Church, Lea is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. This is the church closest to the school, although liaison with the other parishes is also encouraged and welcomed.

## Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- A member of the Governing Body has been nominated to act as the link governor. Their role is to liaise with staff members to discuss various aspects of R.E. and Collective Worship. This ensures an effective line of communication between the staff and the governing body.

## Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

## Review

This policy is monitored by the governing body and was reviewed by the Pupil and Staffing Committee. It was agreed by the full Governing Body in **May 2014**. It will be reviewed in **April 2017** or earlier if necessary.