

St Francis Catholic Primary School



Worship Policy

Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you'

St Francis School is a loving community, respecting every child and adult and caring for God's world, as we help each other to do our best and grow together in Christ.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

WORSHIP POLICY

1. Introduction

In St Francis school there is a vibrant worship life with ample opportunities for children's liturgies and times of prayer and reflection.

2. Aims of our Moral Education

Our children learn that:

- Creation is a gift from God.
- Jesus is a model for how we should live our lives. He is someone who tells us that if we are to find life, we must love God with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves (Lk 10: 27-28).
- The Holy Family is sacred.
- St Francis is the patron of our school.
- Our Lady is the mother of Jesus and ourselves.
- The apparitions of Mary fill us with hope.
- Comfort is found in the Holy Spirit.
- The saints are called by God to be holy.
- The Mass is a celebration of our faith.
- Knowledge and tolerance of other religions is the key to social harmony.

3. Implementation of Worship

The worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways:

- Whole School Religious Assemblies
- Foundation/Key Stage1 & Key Stage 2 Good Work Assemblies.
- Eucharist
- Sacraments
- Class/whole school Prayer
- Class Masses
- Class Worship
- Class Assemblies

4. Objectives

- Worshipping together
- Reflecting on the ethos of the school and continuing traditions
- Being informed of administrative arrangements
- Reflecting on various aspects of school life
- Listening to stories
- Celebrating individual or group achievements
- Listening to visiting speakers

5. Mission Statement

‘Jesus said ‘Love one another as I have loved you’

Our aim is to make St Francis School a loving community, respecting every child and adult and caring for God’s World, as we help each other to do our best and grow together in Christ.

Our Mission statement is visible around the school and staff and children apply it to their daily routines.

Our school moto is ‘We journey together’.

6. Assemblies

Our school engages in the following assemblies:

Mondays: A whole school assembly led by a member of our Senior Leadership Team. The whole school community gathers in the hall at 2:45pm.

Tuesdays: Class Worship.

Wednesdays: Class Worship.

Thursdays: The whole school worships in song as part of hymn practice.

Fridays: Foundation/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Good Work Assemblies celebrate children’s academic, social and spiritual achievements.

Daily Worship happens in every classroom on a daily basis with prayers at lunchtime, the end of the day and the Angelus. We also offer our morning prayer as a whole school on the playground.

7. Class Worship

A prayerful atmosphere is central to our school life. Our school day begins with a prayer of hope, prayed together on the playground as the first thing we do, and ends with thanksgiving. Religious icons are in situ in all classrooms and children face the prayer corner as a mark of respect.

A personalised prayer book and act of worship book is built up throughout the year by each class relating to their RE topic and relevant, seasonal issues. At different times throughout the year, children elect to attend lunchtime Rosary group and offer their private intentions.

The times for class prayer are generally 12.00pm for lunchtime prayer and 3.20 for afternoon prayer. Additional times occur within RE lessons and at the class teachers’ discretion. A dedicated group of children in Year 6, forming the RE Team, lead a prayer session and a Bible story session on a weekly basis.

8. Masses

The school regularly attends Mass with the wider parish community. We have changed the location of these Masses to the local parish church. We celebrate the Eucharist in classes, houses and as a whole school on various occasions throughout

the year such as feast of our Patron Saint, Leavers Mass, Ash Wednesday, etc. Other services are held such as an Advent Reconciliation and Lenten Penitential service led by our Parish priest and all members of staff.

9. Prayer

Formal prayer is said each morning, lunchtime and afternoon in every class:

Morning Prayer

O my God you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always,
In all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father,
Bless me through the day. Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer Infants

All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above,
O thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love. Amen

Lunchtime Prayer Juniors

Bless us O Lord as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

Home time prayer

God Our Father I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night,
And in the morning send your light. Amen.

Liturgical Prayer

Some of these are displayed in the school hall and are explained and practised for liturgies, for example, our school prayer.

Reflective prayer

This is a regular feature of assemblies, RE lessons and times of worship in the classroom.

The termly RE themes and topics are displayed on a main hall board – and incorporate relevant prayers and reflections.

10. Hymn Practice

Hymn practice is led by the Music Teacher, who liaises with the RE subject leader, and assisted by other staff members. The whole school praises Our Lord in song on Wednesday afternoons. The focus is usually preparation for forthcoming Masses and religious feast days or celebrations.

11. Display

In every classroom there is a display relevant to the Here I am topic. Vocabulary, children's work and prayers are features of RE displays. There is always an RE display in the hall and on the notice board beside the office. Artefacts are used as a focus to enhance displays.

12. Liaison with the Parish

The Parish Priest is a welcome visitor to our school and regularly leads us in whole school/shared assemblies, class Masses, prayer services and staff inset.

13. Liaison with Parents

- A termly newsletter is distributed to parents outlining topics to be taught during the term.
- Parents are invited to attend class Masses.
- Parents are invited to attend class Assemblies etc.

14. Leavers Mass

The Leavers Mass is a popular Mass held in the school for all members of our school and parish communities.

15. Retreats

Staff

A retreat day is held where staff are led in prayer, reflection, team building exercises and discussions. This has included staff visiting a local House of Prayer, inspirational speakers coming to our school and providing an opportunity for staff to take some time to reflect.

Pupils

Year 6 have a one day retreat to Walsingham House prior to leaving school. It is usually organised by the current teacher assigned to that year group.

16. School Liaison

Staff

At the start of each new term the Re subject leader leads the staff in a reflective overview of the Come and See topics. At that point he/she may speak to staff about current diocesan directives.

Governors

The RE subject leader reports back to governors. The Parish Priest is instrumental in overseeing the provision for R.E. and Worship and visits the school frequently.

17. Brentwood Education Services

A notice board is well placed in the staffroom outlining forthcoming diocesan events. An overview of the Here I am topics is also displayed outlining notable dates for worship in our Catholic calendar.

18. Conclusion

Acts of worship take many forms in our school and are seen as a priority. Children enjoy having the opportunity to lead and participate fully in all forms of worship throughout the school.

Signed:

Dated: May 2016

R.E Subject Leader – Mrs Ginzler-Maher