



St. Francis Xavier's RC Primary School

Love one another as I have loved you

John 15:12

Collective Worship Policy

Our Mission

Share God's love with one another

Follow your dreams

Excel in citizenship

Our Mission is to:

- Be a witness to the values, teaching and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church
- Promote achievement and enjoyment for all
- Expect the best for individuals
- Inspire learning
- Collaborate with the community
- Promote a healthy and safe life style
- Create a sustainable school
- Continually strive to be effective

School is about life - and life impinges on us as human beings on many levels – physical, emotional, spiritual and social. At the centre of our school is God, who cares for us as His children, who sent His Son to save us and whose Spirit works through us all.

To be human is to feel, experience and acknowledge all the joys, sorrows, losses, pains excitements and questions with which reality presents us.

For this to happen we need to take time out to reflect. In the context of a busy Catholic school, what better way to do it, than in the form of a good liturgical celebration. This can involve the whole school, parts of the school or individual classes. In our school community, which includes parents, parishioners, past pupils, pupils, governors and staff, moments of joy for some are mingled with heartbreaking loss for others. Birthdays, baptisms, parties, holidays and achievements can be high points in our lives and need to be marked by the whole community in some way. Support for those experiencing lows is also of the utmost importance and coming together as part of a praying community can be of great comfort to those feeling pain in some way. It can also help to prepare members of the community, seemingly untouched as yet by tragedies (worldwide or local), for when the inevitable happens. Therefore, we stand before God and share together the triumphs and failures, the joys and sorrows, the hopes and dreams of school life as it is, and always ask for His forgiveness and guiding hand in what we do.

Organisation

Whole school worship

Gospel worship on Monday is led by the headteacher with a focus on the message of the Sunday Gospel. Whole school worship is also led by different members of staff or by class teachers with their classes. The theme is chosen in consultation with the R.E. Coordinator, Prayer and Liturgy Leader and the headteacher. Frequently, 'issues of the day', national events, ways to help others, bereavement or tackling problems may relegate a planned theme, but the termly plan from the taught curriculum either, 'In God's Name' or 'Come and See', Pupil Profile (Virtues), or the liturgical seasons of Lent and Advent are adhered to when possible. Parents are invited to attend class worship.

Achievement Assemblies

Every alternate Friday afternoon, a school celebration takes place with certificates awarded to children who deserve recognition for a variety of reasons including living out our school virtues, making an effort to improve, academic success, sporting success, good manners, being a good role models and pupils' special talents. House point announcements are also made. The children are encouraged to use the talents that God has given them. The assemblies start and finish with a prayer. On the alternate Friday the children receive their certificates in the classroom.

House Worship

The children in the school are divided into four houses, named after St. Joseph, St Vincent de Paul, St Thérèse of Lisieux and St Margaret Clitherow. On the first Wednesday of the month the houses meet together to worship and look at the Virtues for the half -term and consider how they carry out these Virtues in their everyday lives. Each house leads whole school worship around their feast day which the children plan and lead. Prayer cards are given out to the new members of their house.

Prayer and Liturgy Worship

Once a month, the Prayer and Liturgy Leader leads Prayer and Liturgy Worship. This takes the focus of appropriate Holy days, Feasts and Saints according to the particular season of the Liturgical year.

Come Follow Me Worship

Once a month, the deputy headteacher uses 'Come Follow me' for whole school worship.

Class collective worship

On occasions when there is not a whole school collective worship, individual classes will spend time together in worship. Sometimes this will be planned and led by the teacher and on other occasions it will be planned by the pupils in conjunction with adult staff in their year group, using the Let us pray resource, Nurturing Human Wholeness Resource, The Rosary or the children's own ideas linked to the liturgical year or feast days.

Format

All collective worship sessions will follow these four stages; gather, word, response and mission.

Gather: Children will gather together in their place of worship, in a quiet and dignified manner and appropriate music will be played.

Word: The children will listen to, act out or watch a story from the Bible or share and discuss the teaching Jesus gave us.

Response: Children will take part in a litany, song, prayer or ask for prayers and have some reflective time.

Mission: Children will take a message and be asked to live out this message in their everyday life.

