



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Under present law Religious Education and an act of daily collective worship (of a broadly Christian content) has to be delivered in all schools. As a school we have considered the legal requirements together with the special needs of our pupils in formulating this policy. We have not developed this policy lightly and are convinced that we are delivering the most appropriate religious education and experiences to our pupils following the spirit of the law.

Our pupils have many opportunities to meet and take part in daily broadly religious experiences. Every day during registration and mid-morning breaks each class meets to discuss what class members have done, or will be doing, both at school and at home. This is a time where achievements can be celebrated, people remembered and sadness shared in the most appropriate ways for the individuals and for the group. As both staff and pupils in every Family Group form a trust and understanding by working together we believe this is of greater value than a formal act of collective worship. However, classes may choose to also use this time to discuss and prepare for the forthcoming Friday afternoon assembly.

We believe that it is important for the whole school community to meet together at selected occasions, and our 2-16 year olds all meet together in an assembly every Friday afternoon. Students from our Post-16 provision hold their own assemblies at these times. All pupils celebrate individual or class achievements and collectively share in the theme for the week, particularly through music and singing. The emphasis is on active and enjoyable participation. The pupils are encouraged to acknowledge their wider membership of the whole school and all parts of the community we live in.

We believe that our pupils may gain through different religious experiences but feel that it would be inappropriate for the school to meet in an act of daily worship for the following reasons :

- Because many pupils in the school are not working at a level where they can understand abstract concepts, there is a risk of tokenistic delivery of subject matter not pitched at the individual child's needs, something that completely goes against the aims and ethos of the school.
- For pupils to assemble, meet and then depart from the school hall requires considerably more time and effort than in mainstream schools, and would significantly reduce our valuable teaching time.

The values and aims of Frank Wise School pervade our daily life, through formal teaching and informal social interaction between pupils and staff. All pupils are shown care and respect and are expected and encouraged to show the same to others. Our Religious Education curriculum forms part of our Humanities framework, and makes the links between explicit teaching and implicit demonstration of values a clear part of teaching across the whole school.

Reviewed by: Sean O'Sullivan

Date: October 2016

Approved by Governors:

Date: 13th October 2016