



# 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 educational needs of our pupils in formulating this policy.

We believe that all our pupils gain through different religious experiences, when presented in a developmentally appropriate manner, but believe that this would not be effectively achieved through meeting in an act of daily worship for the following reasons :

- Many pupils in the school would require significant, developmentally appropriate support at a level necessary to access abstract concepts. Without this, 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. This level of input is best secured in small class groups tailored to the developmental requirements of the individual, rather than in whole school community events.
- For pupils to assemble, meet and then depart from the school hall requires considerably more time than in mainstream schools, and would significantly reduce our teaching time, reducing the impact we can have on supporting pupils to make progress.

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 consideration 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.

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 feelings shared in the most appropriate ways for the individuals and for the group. As both staff and pupils in every Family Group form trusting and understanding relationships by working closely together, we believe this is of value comparable to an act of formal collective worship. However, classes may choose to also use this time to discuss and prepare for the Friday afternoon assemblies.

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. 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.

**Reviewed by:** Simon Knight

**Date:** March 2021

**Approved by Governors:** *Richard Howard*

**Date:** March 2021