



Collective Worship Policy

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The values that Christ taught us underpin everything that we do.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The core of our Mission Statement is:

Growing Together, Learning Together, Achieving Together in Christ

This reflects the ambition and vision we have for enabling all of our children to achieve their very best through collaboration and mutual support within the Catholic context. We are a worshipping community, valuing prayer and praise, and enjoying close links with the parish of the Sacred Heart and St Francis in Frinton. Through our mission, and by working with the families in our school, we develop appropriate values and morals to prepare our pupils not just for the next stage of their academic careers, but for life

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT ST PHILOMENA'S SCHOOL

- To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- To consider spiritual and moral issues
- To meet the Living God
- To explore their own belief
- To encourage full, conscious, active participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation
- To develop community spirit
- To promote and reinforce common ethos
- To express in a variety of ways the distinctive values that underpin the school's existence, vision, outlook against the background of its Mission Statement
- To offer opportunities to explore the Spiritual Dimension in ways that enable/empower/uplift/ponder/reflect/empathise
- To provide moments of reflection and prayer
- To offer opportunities to ponder the Word of God and basic religious concepts
- To enable pupils to come into the fullness of Trinitarian life.

LEGISLATION FOR WORSHIP

1989 legislation laid down the following criteria:

All schools must have, during the day, with an act of worship which should be

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Contribute to Spiritual Development
- Have a Sense of occasion

CATHOLIC TRADITION

At the heart of Catholic life is the practise of starting each day with prayer. We make a point of dedicating their day and work to God, who is at the heart of the school.

THE WORSHIPPING NATURE OF ST PHILOMENA'S SCHOOL

The worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways. Among these are:

Prayer (See Diocesan Handbook)

Assemblies

Eucharist

Sacraments

Alternative Liturgies

Classroom Prayer/Worship.

Categories or Dimensions of Worship:

Praise

Thanksgiving

Repentance

Intercessions

Types of Acts of Worship

Class led

Headteacher led

Visitor led

ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE

Monday:	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday:	Lower School Class Assembly Upper School Hymn Practice
Wednesday:	Whole School Assembly
Thursday:	Lower School Assembly Upper School Hymn Practice
Friday:	Whole School Assembly

All year groups deliver a class assembly to the whole school and parents once per term.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

Assemblies require careful planning if they are to be meaningful events. We cannot, however, ensure that these occasions will be religious experiences, that is the work of the Holy Spirit, but we can create the conditions and bring children to the threshold of worship.

Ten Tips

1. Favour a holistic approach (cross-curricular, and take account of the cultural richness of participants).
2. Decide on the appropriate strategies to present the assembly; prepare the venue creating a sense of occasion.
3. What will the focus be: artefact, candle, drape, poster, art display, symbol etc?
4. Maximise pupil involvement and ensure staff presence and participation.
5. Content should be Scripture based, to ensure good doctrine and sound teaching (use a translation appropriate for participants).
6. Include some intercessions that reflect current situations, the reality of pupils' lives. Such prayers can be educational in teaching us how to pray in a way that fosters extended love of neighbour.
7. Use various forms of prayer: formal, personal, reflective, liturgical.
8. Choose hymns that are God-centred and balance the participative and reflective.
9. Build into assembly a quiet moment/silence to allow God to speak, teach, draw and love us. It is a time as Cardinal Hume cites when two silences meet: the silence of God and the silence of the individual.
10. The assembly should last 20-30 minutes.

WEBSITES

www.sacredspace.ie

www.loyolapress.com

www.marketing@paulinebooks-org.uk

www.comeandseere.co.uk

www.info@mccrimmons.com

www.vatican.va

www.stpauls.org.uk

www.cesew.org.uk

www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR EVALUATING THE PROVISION OF WORSHIP

Introduction

What are expectations/ Diocesan Requirements?

Mission Statement

Who compiled it?

When revisited and reviewed?

How is the Mission Statement owned and lived around school?

Assemblies

Class

Whole school

Class worship

Time allocation

Monitoring

What guidelines are given to new staff?

Masses

Whole school

Phase group

Chaplaincy provision

First Communion

Reconciliation Services

Advent

Lent

Throughout the school year?

Sacramental preparation

Prayer

Formal prayer

Liturgical prayer

Reflective prayer

Meditation

Prayer focus in classrooms/hall

Are staff aware of Diocesan Guidelines and Handbook?

Hymn Practice

Frequency

New hymns

Links with the Parish

Calendar

Christmas

Easter

Pentecost Celebration

Leavers Mass

School

Parish

Deanery based

Retreats/Away Days

For Staff and Governors

Children

Parents

RE INSET

Annual

Resources

Bibles (age appropriate)

DVDs

Banners

Music

Crosses and crucifixes

Drapes (Liturgical colours)

Displays

In classrooms

In main areas of the school, eg front office, hall

Artefacts

In classrooms

In main areas of the school, eg front office, hall

Scripture

Displays around the school

Creative use of Scripture in worship and RE

Different translations

Links

Between home, school and parish

Role of Governors

Annual review of the provision of RE

Ratification of policies

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRITUALLY DEVELOPED PERSON

Spiritual people are characterised, to a greater or lesser extent, by some of the following:

Openness to the Holy Spirit

In Catholic Schools opportunities for spiritual development of children and staff takes place through Prayer, Sacraments, reflection and the lived experience of Catholic life.

Awareness

In various religions the spiritual person is described as 'awake', 'enlightened', and 'open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit'.

Breadth of Outlook

Spiritual people see things in perspective... they are aware of and take account of a wide range of considerations that bear on their everyday life.

A Holistic Outlook

A spiritual person is aware of the interconnectedness of things, the unity within diversity, patterns within the whole.

Integration

Spiritual people are integrated in body, mind and spirit; and in the various dimensions and commitments of life, including societal ones.

Wonder

The spiritual person has a due sense of awe, of mystery, of the transcendent in life...

Gratitude

Sometimes this is... used in such a way that it implies the existence of a divine 'person' to whom we are grateful. However, such a belief is not essential; we can conceive of a 'grateful' approach to life in terms of attitudes of gladness and humility with respect to the good things of life...

Hope

Even without a belief in 'providence' a certain degree of hopefulness or optimism would seem to be justified, and indeed necessary for every day living.

Courage

Plato spoke of the need for a courageous, 'spirited' approach to life. Courage is as basic and important as hope.

Energy

...their awareness provides a basis for motivation and their integrated life leads to synergy of body, mind and spirit, such that they in fact have a high degree of energy.

Detachment

The approach of 'going with the flow' does not imply lack of concern but rather a skilful working with the currents of life in order to achieve spiritual goals.

Acceptance

Even in popular, non-religious parlance one is encouraged to accept the inevitable 'with good grace'. Acceptance is a spiritual virtue in relation to the inevitable and not in situations where one could and should attempt to modify what takes place.

Love

To many, love is the paramount characteristic of the spiritual person... In the west love and spirituality are closely linked; for example in the New Testament (Bible, 1Corinthians 13) it is stressed that whatever else we may be or do, without love we are nothing from a spiritual point of view.

Gentleness

... involves a sensitive, thoughtful, caring approach to other people, to one's own needs and to the cosmos in general... does not imply weakness or indecisiveness.