# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

*‘Teach the children with all the kindness and gentleness possible’*

*Marie Madeleine d’Houet 1837*

# 1. RATIONALE

* 1. In accordance with our Mission Statement as part of the FCJ family and as a Catholic and Christian Community, we need to have in place a whole school policy which expresses the context in which Religious Education is taught at Upton and our approach to worshipping together.

# 2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 At Upton, we firmly believe that:

* Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum, is the entitlement of every pupil and informs the ethos of the school;
* every pupil should take Religious Education up to the endof Key Stage 4 and be entered for the GCSE examination; an A Level option should be provided and there should be a General Religious Education programme in the Sixth Form;
* at Key Stage 3, pupils should:
* Access the curriculum in line with the ‘Statement on Religious Education’ from the Catholic Bishops (2000).
* learn about the history, ethos and mission of the FCJs as founded by Marie Madeleine, as well as the history and life of the school.
* study the other main world religions with the aim of understanding their fundamental elements and developing understanding of the beliefs of others.
* explore the influence of Christianity in the world.
* we should facilitate pupils to discuss their own beliefs in an atmosphere free from embarrassment and intolerance.
* pupils should be encouraged to make informed decisions about their lives within the context of Christian and Catholic values.
* We believe that collective worship should form the beginning of each session.
* All members of staff and pupils should have the opportunity to lead collective worship.
* Our collective worship should be based on Christian and Catholic principles and observance in a way that is relevant to the lives of the pupils.
* Pupils should be encouraged to lead their form, year group or school in collective worship and in the preparation of the liturgy for our weekly mass and other liturgical services.
* We should, where possible**,** join in collective worship with pupils from other FCJ schools.

# 3. GUIDELINES

3.1 All members of staff are expected to attend assemblies, thus setting an example to the pupils in the participation of the religious life of the school.

3.2 Collective worship should be prepared in a way which is enjoyable, reflective and relevant to the age of the pupils.

3.3 All pupils must attend Assemblies and behave in a manner which is conducive to quiet reflection and prayer.

3.4 Pupils should be encouraged to share their musical talents and accompany the singing wherever possible.

3.5 Appropriate services should be organised during the main liturgical seasons

3.6 All pupils should be entitled to the opportunity to make an annual retreat.

3.7 All pupils and staff will be expected to attend the annual school mass.

## 4. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

4.1 The success of the school’s policy on Religious Education and Collective Worship will be measured using the following criteria:

1. Pupils develop a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the subject.
2. Their relationships with others, both within and outside the school community reflect the values enshrined in the Gospel.

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