



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

'Teach the children with all the kindness and gentleness possible'

Marie Madeleine d'Houet 1837

1. RATIONALE

- 1.1 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 end of 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.
 - Be enabled to discuss their own beliefs in an atmosphere free from embarrassment and intolerance.
 - 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 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:
 - a. Pupils develop a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the subject.
 - b. Their relationships with others, both within and outside the school community reflect the values enshrined in the Gospel.

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