

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: September 2023
Next Review: September 2024

St George's Church of England Primary School



Bringing **faith** and **education** together

**Reviewed by Miss N Brownfield,
Collective Worship Lead**

Our vision:

Our vision is to value each pupil as an individual and ensure they reach their full potential by 'letting their light shine,' (Matthew 5:14-16), through our Christian Values of Respect, Honesty, Courage, Kindness, Forgiveness and Hope, to bring faith and education together,

At St George's (VC) Church of England Primary School our acts of school worship are a very important part of our lives. They take place in line with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England. As a church school, we know that God is at the centre of all that is best.

AIMS

Our school worship is a daily act of worship that draws the whole school together in a common purpose. It provides an opportunity to worship God through reflection and celebration and to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

- It helps pupils' Spiritual development by teaching them about God and giving them the opportunity to worship him together. It encourages silent reflection, helping children to recognise the spiritual dimension of life.
- It helps pupils' moral development through teaching of common Christian values and teaching respect for other faiths.
- It promotes pupils' social development by helping them to feel part of a community, and will reinforce positive attitudes. Our children are helped to share their own experiences so that they see the value of sharing with others in the school community.
- It helps pupils' Cultural development by providing opportunities for the children to experience and respond to appropriate music, the Bible, religious festivals and practices.

OBJECTIVES

At St George's collective worship is a special occasion, held in the school hall, with the themes for collective worship allowing for a mixed age group to participate in a meaningful and relevant way at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is seen as part of the life of the wider Christian community.

THE SETTING FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Care is taken to make the setting for our worship special for the occasion. A cross and a candle, which is lit at the beginning of the act of worship, are visible to all the children. Appropriate music is played as the children enter and leave the hall.

The sense of special occasion is created by the attitude of the person(s) leading the worship and the participants joining together for a specific purpose.

- The leader is well prepared with resources, such as visual aids and songs. Songs and hymns are carefully chosen to complement the theme of the Act of Worship.

- Children enter the special place in a quiet and calm manner, expecting quality time. Music accompanies the processing in and out of the Act of Worship.
- Adult members of each class and children in school (unless withdrawn) will attend the Act of Worship.

SCHOOL WORSHIP

In compliance with the law, we provide an act of school worship daily for all pupils.

Monday	Rev T. Hatwell / Open the Book	Following the Church Year
Tuesday	Head teacher	Following RDBE Worship Cycle
Wednesday	Class teachers	Following RDBE Worship Cycle
Thursday	Collective Worship/ Music Lead	Choral Worship
Friday	Deputy Headteacher	Celebration Worship

CONTENT OF WORSHIP

As a Church of England school, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Fundamentally Anglican in nature covering the major Christian Festivals (i.e. including Christmas, Easter and Pentecost).
- Draw on frequent Bible teaching, particularly as stories.
- Be delivered in a variety of ways. (These will usually include music and songs, story and discussion, drama acting out stories and a time for prayer and reflection).
- St George's Church encourages young children to participate in the Eucharist services. This may only include the Rector teaching our pupils about the Eucharist during acts of collective worship.
- Year 6 children witness, or participate in the Eucharist at Rochester Cathedral when they have been confirmed, and participate in the service

THEMES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Long term plans include a three-year cycle of themes based upon the RDBE CW cycle.

Short term plans for each half term allow different members of staff taking collective worship to build on the chosen theme without unnecessary repetition.

Children take an active part in collective worship on regular basis, leading with Bible stories and prayers. Our Leading Lights, a group of Upper Key Stage Two children plan and deliver an act of worships through the year.

The material used in collective worship might draw upon prayers, readings from scripture and other material with a spiritual and moral dimension, together with contributions from those leading Collective Worship.

SPECIAL SERVICES AND CHURCH LINKS

The school values both its special links with the incumbent and Parish of St George's and its church. The Reverend leads a weekly act of worship in the school and the children and staff attend a regular family service in the church with parents invited. The children celebrate the major festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter in the church, with parents and Governors welcome to attend.

We also visit the church during RE lessons to develop our understanding about the specialness of the building and the community. Members of the community are asked to speak, in school, on specific themes, sometimes related to charitable organisations.

INCLUSION AND WITHDRAWAL

As a Church school, worship plays a central part in our school life and is important educationally for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in Collective Worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child would discuss this with the headteacher before making this decision.

REVIEW

The staff who lead collective worship: plan, participate in the collective worship of others and discuss the quality and relevance of different acts of worship at staff meetings. One factor that is carefully remembered is the means by which the reception children are involved in collective worship and visual aids are considered essential.

Governors occasionally attend collective worship within the school and services at St George's Church. The nominated governor for Collective Worship meets regularly with the Subject Leader to discuss collective worship and other related issues. A written report is given at the meetings of the full Governing Body.