



## Collective Worship Policy

Date	Author	Date for Revision
September 2022	EM	September 2024

### Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in line with our agreed evaluation process or as the need arises through changes in local or national directive.

Signed..... Chair of Governors      Date .....

Print .....

Signed..... Headteacher      Date .....

Print .....

# Collective Worship Policy

*'All things are possible for one who believes' (Mark 9:23)*

*"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can." (John Wesley)*

At St. Georges Church School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of our school day.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. Our daily collective worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences which provide opportunities for the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Collective Worship**

Our daily acts of collective worship are distinctly Christian, and contribute significantly to the ethos of our school. It is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider what it means to be living in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain

## **Christian Values**

Our school is rooted in Christian values and these values underpin our collective worship programme, permeate our curriculum and relate directly to our Ready, Respectful, Safe behaviour code. This programme has a core 18 values and, as a strong Christian community, are woven into the fabric of our whole school community. We don't believe that some values are more important than others, instead that we need an unwavering Christian approach where children and the community are exposed to a wide range of values which provoke challenge and though every day. Alongside this, the 6 core values were chosen by our community in September 2022 and are weaved throughout life and worship at St Georges.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Friendship</b>	<b>Thankfulness</b>	<b>Trust</b>
"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)	"Honour your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 19.19)	"Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others"	"And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them" (Luke 6, 31)	"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)	"My God is my strength in whom I trust" (Psalm 18.2)

### **Structures of our week's worship**

A termly plan is produced and circulated to all teachers and leaders. Each term we reflect upon a Christian value, whilst also incorporating specific times and festivals, such as Holocaust Memorial day, Harvest or Lent.

Monday worships are led by a member of SLT and use the 'Roots and Fruits' resource to structure the worship, linked to the Christian value we are focussing on.

Tuesdays are singing worships where songs of praise are both practised and performed. These songs are then used in future worships that week and term.

Wednesdays are either led by classes (on a rota basis – whereby families are also invited to join us) or other teaching members of staff. Family worships are based around a Bible story. Other worships use the 'Roots and Fruits' resource.

Thursday worships are led by clergy from the three local Churches (Anglican, Baptist and Methodist), on a rota basis, as well as 'Open the Book' – offering children the chance to 'see' Bible stories told and acted out by a team of Christians from local churches.

Friday worships are celebratory. Headteacher certificates are awarded for exceptional achievements and ELLI certificates given for children demonstrating the ELLI values and attributes.

### **Organisation of Worship**

- Year 6 pupils help to set up for worship at 10:20 am ready for children to enter the hall for a 10:30am start.
- Worship should finish by 10:45am
- The lighter for candles is collected and returned to the office by the worship leader of the day.
- The altar table is set with the worship cloth, candles and cross. An alternative worship cloth is used when appropriate i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost.
- Children walk quietly up the corridor/outside in preparation for worship.
- Peaceful music or a worship song is playing when the children enter and leave the hall. Children may spontaneously join in with the song if they wish.

- At the start of worship, or during if appropriate, the leader chooses words to say, lighting the candles eg 'The Lord is here'
- The children respond with 'His Spirit is With Us'
- All children are given the opportunity to participate, reflect and pray.
- Families and other community members are invited to attend worship wherever relevant and possible.
- Governors are encouraged to attend Collective Worship wherever possible and are regularly invited to key services throughout the year, such as Christmas, Harvest and Easter.
- Occasionally, when it is not possible to gather for collective worship, class worships take place on the theme of the term.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values rooted in the Bible, we are committed to understanding what it means to live in a multi-cultural society, upholding British values. This means respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Where relevant, links to other faiths may be made in worship, especially regarding important festivals, holy days and holidays.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Worship is monitored at different times by staff and pupils.

### **Visits and Visitors**

As part of the curriculum, St Georges Church School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed, especially those who represent the three denominations of our unique ecumenical status. We seek for them to share their experiences and knowledge and help us as a school to reflect upon our Christian ethos.

Occasionally visitors to our worship may be from charities, such as Christian Aid.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils, regardless of special educational need or disability, gender and ethnic origin are welcomed to worship together and will also have access to a range of appropriate resources to support their understanding of and participation in collective worship.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.