



**'Let all that you do be done in Love' 1 Corinthians
16:14**



**The example of Jesus Christ and the Good news that
He brings inspire St George's to be a place of hope and
a caring and inclusive community in which we all**

Love to learn and Learn to Love.

St George's CE Primary and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

<u>Date agreed:</u>	September 2025
<u>Review Date:</u>	September 2027

'Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name' Psalm 103:1

RATIONALE

At St George's, we are committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our school's Christian vision, 'Let all that you do be done in Love', 1 Corinthians 16:14 and the Church of England's vision, to 'live life in all its fulness' John 10:10.

All pupils and staff should grow from their encounter with worship, whoever they are, and wherever they are on their faith journey. Collective worship should touch everyone in some way; they should leave the collective worship personally a little bit different from when they entered it.

We embrace the differences in faith represented in our school community so that every family member feels a sense of belonging through collective worship. The spirituality of all will be recognised and care taken that there are aspects of the collective worship that will include all. Pupils and adults will have the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings during the collective worship.

Collective worship is for all members of the school, and everyone should feel that they are invited by it being a safe space for all to be in and a part of, whether they are of the Christian faith, a different faith or have no faith. Everyone is invited to be part of God's family worshipping together as a community founded on the Church of England faith, endeavouring to live out the deeply Christian vision of the school of which collective worship should be an expression.

For collective worship to be relevant, meaningful and effective, and strong heartbeat of the school, it needs to be inspirational and feel alive. Worship should touch and move, sow a seed that can take root and germinate, today, or sometime in the future for those pupils and staff present. Taking into account the community we are part of worship should help to build unity, strengthen community cohesion and contribute significantly to living well together.

Worship is a collective activity, and we value our time together to connect with God. In response to any change, so will Collective Worship change, challenge, and deepen people's relationships with God and with each other.

All pupils are required to attend a daily act of Collective Worship, and St George's affirms the importance of maintaining a professional and thoughtful structure to this statutory 'coming together', seeing it as an ideal opportunity to explore and enrich the Christian vision and ethos of the school. The worship will be of a distinctively Christian character and in accordance with our trust deed. Worship is the heartbeat of our school and community and permeates through all of our teaching and learning. We are committed to providing for our children a meaningful opportunity to experience a Christian approach to worship, whilst paying consideration and respect to the beliefs and practices of other religions.

AIMS

- To foster a sense of community, identity and self-esteem, where each individual is valued.
- To create a special atmosphere in which all participants might find an opportunity for prayer, worship, stillness and reflection
- To provide opportunities for individual reflection and response through explorations of feelings such as wonder, awe, humility, sorrow, thankfulness, delight, peace etc.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate, using our gifts and talents.
- To be sensitive to the age, background and individual needs of all our children.
- To promote and strengthen the spiritual, moral and social development of all members of the school community.
- To provide opportunities throughout the school day that is appropriate to offer worship to God, including lunchtime and end of the day prayers and reflections in each class.
- To be inclusive, invitational and inspirational
- To nurture those of faith, to encourage those of other faiths and to challenge those of no faith.

GUIDELINES

- Although RE and Collective Worship are distinct activities, we feel the common elements afford a unique opportunity to link the two, so enhancing the effect of both. Through careful planning the daily act of worship can provide an intentional learning experience, which promotes and enhances the rest of the curriculum. Additionally, the themes for collective worship form a common strand for everyone involved in their preparation and delivery, focusing the message of shared vision and values and promoting opportunity for meaningful reflection.
- Collective Worship themes are chosen with the following in mind:
- The school's Christian vision, 'let all that you do be done in love', 1 Corinthians 16:14

- Christian Values – including the school's core values: Forgiveness, Friendship, Honesty, Hope, Thankfulness, Love and Compassion that help to put our vision into practice
 - The patterns of a year as depicted by the main religions.
 - Concepts which are central to traditional Christian belief.
 - Aspects of Christian Anglican worship.
 - Stories from the Bible and other religious writings.
 - Reflections on symbolism.
 - Christianity in a multi-faith world.
- Whilst seeking to fulfil the aims set out above, care will be taken to explore a variety of approaches in a constant search for quality experiences. The following will, at various times, play a prominent part in Collective Worship: story, prayer, visual aids, drama, role-play, dance, music, stillness, questions and answers, visiting clergy and other visitors, children's contributions.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from the daily act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher will be happy to discuss any concerns parents may have about this aspect of the school day.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Organisation, Content & Structure

The whole school, including members of staff, meet together in school on Monday, Thursday and Friday morning and in church on Wednesday morning for whole school Collective Worship. On Tuesday morning KS1 & KS2 hold Family Group or Class CW on alternate weeks (in classrooms, in the hall or outdoors). Worship usually lasts approximately 20-25 minutes, but the length of collective worship may vary. Various people assist the head in conducting whole school worship and the vicar of St George's conducts the collective worship in church on Wednesdays. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to collective worship, as do members of charitable organisations, to offer their expertise to the school. On major festivals or occasions (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers service), collective worship is held in St George's church.

Collective worship follows the four elements of Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding – which match the Windows, Mirrors, Doors strategy linked to Spiritual Development.

The **Candle** is lit at the start of worship, as children are asked to prepare for worship and to mark that worship has begun.

The **Window** is used as the symbol for an 'OW' or 'WOW' moment, and children are invited to recall an example of when they may have used the value previously.

The **Mirror** symbol encourages children to reflect upon how their learning about the value may have challenged or changed them.

Finally, the **Door** prompts children to consider what they might do as a practical response to their journey.

Although all elements of this may not feature in every worship, aspects will be used to structure worship and help the children grow their spiritual and moral development.

At the end of a half term each class in turn will present their learning and reflections on the value and the impact it has had on them as individuals and collectively as groups of people in the living community.

The following ongoing daily pattern is generally followed;

Monday	Whole school worship led by Headteacher, Deputy headteacher or on occasions, a visitor from the local community, e.g. local church, charity or organisation
Tuesday	KS1/KS2 - Pupil led class or Family Group worship in classrooms, in the hall or outdoor areas
Wednesday	Whole school led by Vicar, or on occasion a visitor or other minister, leads whole school collective worship in church. Parents are welcome to join us
Thursday	Whole school collective worship: Songs of Praise
Friday	'Let Your Light Shine' Celebration family worship led by Headteacher or Deputy headteacher There are also regular class led, Learning Showcase acts of collective worship on a Friday morning

Collective Worship Planning – Three Year Plan

Half term themes based on Christian values – and used over the year for Whole school, Key stage and Class Worship. 18 values will be explored over a three-year period and will include the school's seven chosen core values.

	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Autumn 1	Love	Thankfulness	Hope
Autumn 2	Friendship	Compassion	Peace
Spring 1	Responsibility	Trust	Service

Spring 2	Courage	Humility	Forgiveness
Summer 1	Justice	Generosity	Truthfulness/Honesty
Summer 2	Perseverance	Wisdom	Respect

All major Christian festivals and aspects of the Church year will be incorporated into Collective Worship – eg Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Education Sunday, St George's and other Saint's days. Worship will also respect and celebrate other faiths; Worship will be invitational, inspirational and inclusive to all; it will nurture those of faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those of no faith.

Class and House worship will be based on Reflections and Responses to Whole School Worship on Monday. Key Stage Worship will be planned and used by teachers to develop the Value/theme further at an appropriate level for the age range of the children at each Key Stage.

Wednesday worship in Church will be based on the Values or the festivals/ seasonal aspects and will be led, where possible, by clergy or other visitors.

Songs of Praise on Thursday will be used to learn, understand and explore songs linked with the Value for the half term or to the Christian season or festival being celebrated.

'Let Your Light Shine' Celebration Worship on Friday will be used to share the joy of those who have achieved in school or in other activities, have special things to show, or have birthdays.

Collective Worship will also be used to respond to and reflect on situations and events at school, local community, national or global level. The outline themes based on Christian values supports the need for coverage and continuity but responding to events allows us the opportunity to show children our Christian values in action.

Children will be given opportunities at all levels (class, KS & Whole school) throughout the year to take an active part in and to lead worship sessions.

Content

It is the responsibility of the leader of each act of collective worship to plan for and to include a variety of ingredients within the clearly stated theme. This may involve liaison with the music or worship Leader, where necessary.

The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, and moments of reflective silence, focal points, interactive activities for the children, slides or DVD presentations. A collection of resources is available in school as an aid to planning collective worship.

It should be noted that an 'assembly' is not an 'act of collective worship' but a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, behaviour chats etc

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. An overarching theme, usually based on one of the Christian values, is chosen for each half term and weekly planning is developed from this. Planning and evaluation is done around the 4 key parts of worship: Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding.

Each act of collective worship will include some of the following elements:

- celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths;
- presentation of Bible stories;
- topical matters from the news or the locality;
- using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching;
- appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others;
- visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school;
- prayer in different forms – eg formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection;
- use of music (this will include CDs as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school), drama etc;
- use of appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.)
- participation by the children;
- using collects, responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship.

Class Worship

All classrooms have a reflection area that is set up and changed with the children each half term. These areas support the class worship and contain many of the artefacts and resources needed for class worship and reflection –eg candles, cross, Bible, prayer and response opportunities.

Training/Resources

Opportunities are provided for staff to access training for CW, plus staff meeting and Inset time is used to train, support and keep staff up to date with Collective Worship requirements and ideas. The school budget includes an annual sum to be used for resourcing collective worship. Books, IT resources, visual aids (artefacts, posters, drapes etc) are purchased regularly

Planning and Record Keeping

A system of planning and recording documents is kept in school. The planning documents, rotas and themes are discussed and then distributed to staff at the beginning of each term. These are also displayed on the staffroom notice board. Any plans relating to worship are kept fully up to date. These plans are kept over time to avoid repetition of stories and other elements of worship, whilst ensuring

a breadth of approach is used. The Worship Leader is available to assist with planning should a member of staff request this.

Visitors

Each visitor is communicated with by the collective Worship Leader. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of collective worship. Should any problems occur with an act of collective worship the head undertakes to deal with these in liaison with the Worship Leader.

CONCLUSION

The daily Act of Collective Worship can help our school to become a living community in which we learn to develop a reflective approach to life, recognising the importance of Christian values and growing together in mutual love and respect. Worship will nurture those of faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those of no faith.

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated every two years in accordance with the school's monitoring schedule.