

## St George's C of E Primary and Nursery School Collective Worship Policy

St George's CofE School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Above all, our aim is to make St. George's School a happy place, where your child will want to be, where their personal strengths and weaknesses will be recognised and their work will be tailored to reflect their individual needs.

At St. George's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: *John 13:34-35* "...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples". We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### 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.

### Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday: Whole school worship based on a carefully considered monthly and weekly theme led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
- Tuesday: Whole school worship. Led by class teachers on a rota basis.
- Wednesday: Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Music Leader.

Thursday: Whole school worship led by our local clergy. Once a month we invite The Open the Book Team who use drama and role play to re enact a Bible story based on the monthly theme.

Friday: Every Friday we have a celebration of good work and achievement, including the presentation of a weekly care award and Spirit of St George's awards. This whole school worship is led by the Headteacher who is supported by the Head boy and girl.

Services are held in church and led by the children at event in the Christian calendar throughout the year such as Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. Parents and carers are invited to these services as well as to the Leavers Service at the end of the academic year.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

#### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's Collective Worship reflect our Values focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music which could come from a variety of cultures. The candle on the table is lit to encourage and help the children focus and reflect and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which sometimes finishes with a song and always a prayer. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Tuesday's collective worship led by class teachers continues the theme from Monday. Children are often involved through re enacting a story to contributing to discussions or supporting the class teacher with presentations. The school prayer or other prayer is said at the end of the worship before the children leave.

Wednesday's hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. Children can offer to say a prayer or share their thoughts to end the session. The children leave in the same way as before.

Thursday's assembly is led by a member of the clergy from St George's church once again following the weekly theme. Once a month the Open the Book team present a Bible story through drama based on the theme and choose a number of children from both KS1 and KS2 to perform alongside them. Up lifting action songs are taught and sung at the end of each session and a prayer said.

The Good Work assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers will choose two members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. Headteacher's Writer of the Week and Reading Mile certificates are also presented. One class each week is nominated for a special Care Award. A number of children are chosen either by a member of staff or other children

for a Spirit of St George's award. These awards are given when a child is recognised for demonstrating Christian qualities such as kindness, compassion, patience or an inner strength when overcoming a difficulty or problem. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candle is blown out.

Once every half term, the School Council lead Assembly. This includes elements of worship and allows the whole school to meet together and discuss relevant issues and events.

### Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle. A cross is also displayed on the table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

St George's school has a Prayer room which both children and adults can use as a place for quiet reflection either as an individual or as part of a small group. Children are encouraged to write short prayers which are sometimes related to the Value of the Month, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

The children's prayers are also taken to St George's Church when the school holds a service there and read aloud by the children themselves.

### Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### Evaluation and Monitoring

Children are encouraged to comment and evaluate acts of worship and write notes or comment on specific areas or issues that may arise.

### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St George's 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 and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St George's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Sue Craig  
Collective Worship Leader