

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION SCHOOL

"Every moment, every day, every individual counts"



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Last Reviewed: ***September 2019***
Next Review: ***September 2020***

Governors Monitoring Pair: Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social Development
SLT Responsible: Deputy Headteacher
Review Period: Annually

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many" 1 Corinthians 12:14

HOPE

FORGIVENESS

COMPASSION

FRIENDSHIP

WISDOM

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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1. DEFINITION OF "COLLECTIVE WORSHIP":

1.1 'Collective Worship in Foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the Worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school'.

From Department for Education – A guide to the law for school governors: Religious Foundation and voluntary schools.

1.2 St. George's is a Church of England Foundation School, so our daily act of Worship should be Christian.

1.3 School Worship is "collective" rather than "corporate" in that those attending do not necessarily hold beliefs in common.

2. AIMS:

Collective Worship at St George's Church of England Foundation School will support the school's distinctive Vision and Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community to be invited to participate in worship:

2.1 To help the school community develop a sense of awareness of the world around them and the presence of God in everyday life.

2.2 To offer a spiritual dimension to pupils' lives and personal relationships and an expression of the special relationship between God and humans.

2.3 To lead the school community to an awareness of one God who is revealed in the Bible as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2.4 To provide time and opportunity for prayer and reflection in which to express praise and thanksgiving to God and to bring before Him our needs and those of others.

2.5 To provide time to share with those around us the things we have been doing, achievements, special occasions in respect of individuals, the School, the community, our thoughts and ideas, and to develop common standards, attitudes and those values fundamental to human life.

2.6 To give the opportunity of being active members of a caring community by fostering an atmosphere of love, security and kindness, based upon our Christian values of compassion, forgiveness, friendship, hope and wisdom.

2.7 To make our acts of Collective Worship inclusive, whatever their personal beliefs, relevant to the interests and needs of those taking part, and to emphasise that our Worship is an integral part of the total curriculum, not a preface to it.

2.8 To encourage a sensitivity to questions and answers which prompt reflection and enquiry to what lies beyond the visible, so that pupils are more aware of the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries.

2.9 To encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

2.10 To remind participants of the school vision and associated values.

3. STATUTORY DUTY OF SCHOOL:

3.1 The governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, hold responsibility for ensuring that a daily Act of Worship takes place for all registered pupils.

3.2 The Law requires that all registered pupils, except those whose parents/carers exercise the right of withdrawal, or pupils over the age of 18 who exercise their own right of withdrawal,

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FORGIVENESS

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must take part in an act of Collective Worship on each school day. The right of withdrawal is accessed through a written request.

- 3.3 Teachers have the right to withdraw from Worship.
- 3.4 Acts of Worship can take place at any time in the school day.
- 3.5 Daily Collective Worship must be Christian.

4. VENUE:

- 4.1 It is important that the area used should be secluded, quiet, reasonably comfortable, and that speakers can be easily seen and heard.
- 4.2 On each school day, with the exception of occasions when the Sports Hall and Drama Studio are required for examination purposes, Acts of Worship are carried out in the Primary Site School Hall, in the Secondary Site Sports Hall, Drama Studio, Gym and in Tutor Rooms.
- 4.3 Each term a Communion Service is held in the Drama Studio for Year 7, Year 8 and Years 9-13.

5. WHO LEADS SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP?

- 5.1 The Director of Christian Ethos and Deputy Headteacher organises Worship across the whole school.
- 5.2 It is intended that leading worship should be used to release talents in staff and pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to plan and lead Worship working with staff to develop their own understanding of worship and to plan a worship that supports the spiritual development of their peers. Pupils in the Primary Phase will have the opportunity to participate in the Lighting the Candle scheme which supports the development of pupils leading Collective Worship.
- 5.3 All members of the Senior Leadership Team, Primary Leadership Team and Director of Christian Ethos will take on the responsibility of leading the Sports Hall, Drama Studio Year Group Worships and Primary School Worships on a rotational basis.
- 5.4 Head of Years, their representatives or pupils should lead, when possible, an Act of Worship on a regular basis with an individual Year Group. Pupils will have regular opportunities to participate in and lead worship throughout the school year.
- 5.5 Members of the local Clergy will, when possible, lead an Act of Worship, usually in the Drama Studio, once per term with each Year Group.
- 5.6 The school has introduced a Clergy Adoption Scheme whereby a member of the clergy is attached to a Year Group and has regular contact in Worship .
- 5.7 Other staff lead Acts of Worship from time to time, as pupils.
- 5.8 Acts of Worship are occasionally led by visitors, for example, Good News for Everyone.
- 5.9 If a member of the duty staff for the day is unable to lead the Collective Worship or supervise Worship areas, it is his/her responsibility to make every effort to provide a replacement.
- 5.10 Each member of staff is sent a copy by e-mail and staff are reminded on a daily basis during morning briefing. Tutors to display this in all tutor rooms.
- 5.11 The Director of Christian Ethos will organise a programme of monitoring and evaluation in liaison with the Deputy Headteacher (Primary).

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FORGIVENESS

COMPASSION

FRIENDSHIP

WISDOM

6. THEMES/PLANNING/RECORDING:

- 6.1 A termly theme is planned reflecting our Christian values and vision for staff who lead Worship to use. See Appendix 1
- 6.2 Worship needs careful planning; space and a time should be made for it.
- 6.3 When Secondary Collective Worship is not in the Drama Studio, Gym or Sports Hall, Worship is led by tutors with their forms. This tutor time Worship is planned by the tutor, with resources provided by the Director of Christian Ethos.
- 6.4 The cycle of Worship is based on the Christian Year.
- 6.5 The Christian Ethos Team will be available to assist staff in the planning and preparation of Worship.

7. HOLY COMMUNION:

- 7.1 This is held on a termly basis in the Drama Studio for those pupils in Secondary education who wish to attend and for members of staff who would like to and are available to attend. The communion will be led by a member of clergy from the Anglican communion or a member of clergy from the Churches Together in Thanet. A liturgy constructed by Anglican clergy is also available to be used as the clergy wish.
- 7.2 Communion attendance is reviewed and additional times of communion are provided when required (e.g. Year 7 Communion, Years 9 – 13 Communion etc.)

8. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLIES:

- 8.1 There must be a separation of the business Assembly from the Act of Worship; notices, discipline matters etc., must not be allowed to detract from the main content. At secondary, pupils will be seen into the place of Worship by their form tutors. At Primary Class Teachers will see their classes into the school hall.
- 8.2 Year staff and form tutors are expected to attend Worship in the Drama and Sports Hall .

9. CONTENT AND METHOD OF DELIVERY:

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and will provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama and use of IT.

Our Worship will normally consist of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community with a greeting and sometimes music at Secondary. At Primary music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle take place as they gather.
- *Engage* – we share a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- *Respond* -- pupils discuss, share , reflect , pray or sing
- *Send* – we share the message of the Worship again and ask pupils to think about how it will affect their day. At Primary we close with music and the blowing out of our special candle.

10. INVOLVING VISITORS IN WORSHIP:

- 11.1 Anyone inviting a visitor to lead an Act of Worship must ensure that he/she is briefed on what is appropriate and that the presentation is at the right level for the pupils' age and ability.

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis with the Deputy Headteacher (Primary), the Director of Christian Ethos and the Governors Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social Development group.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions please see Appendix 2 for structure of Collective Worship at St. George's.

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THEMES

- Term 1 – Friendship
- Term 2 – Forgiveness
- Term 3 – Compassion
- Term 4 – Hope
- Term 5 – Wisdom
- Term 6 – Community

Suggested internet sources for reference: - Select only Christian material for acts of Worship

- <http://www.assemblies.org.uk/>
- <http://www.myfishbites.com/assemblies.php>
- <http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk/>
- <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/calendars/>
- <http://www.damaris.org.co.uk>
- <http://www.truetube.org.uk>
- <https://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/>
- <https://www.imaginer.co.uk/jack-box-worship/>
- <http://worshipworkshop.org.uk/>

APPENDIX 2

COVID-19

Due to current guidance surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, the following changes have been implemented for collective worship within St. George's.

- Members of the senior leadership team, Director of Christian Ethos and members of the local clergy will lead acts of worship through Microsoft Teams. This will be a mixture of 'live' and 'recorded material'. The worships will be viewed during tutor time at Secondary and first thing in the morning at Primary.
- Primary Leadership will provide class worships for teachers to use in their individual classes.
- Holy Communion will be suspended for the time being.
- In the event of a local lockdown Acts of worship will be posted via social media.

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FRIENDSHIP

WISDOM