Policy for

Collective Worship

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'Aspirational opportunities for all through the breath of God.'

St George's leads the community by following the teachings of Christ through holistically ensuring excellence for all. Through our happy, secure and stimulating environment all members of the school community grow in self-esteem and potential. Their spiritual, academic and social needs are celebrated as part of daily life.

The Bible story of the 'Feeding of the 5000' shows Gods love and our school values -CARE, SHARE, RESPECT, TRUST, and LOVE

1. Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the Governing Body.

Our Christian Values of: Care, Share, Respect, Trust and Love
is taken from Matthew 14: 13-18 and work as a vehicle to explore our vision and understand how we put our vision in to action.

2. Aims

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

- To explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- To reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- To reflect on their own beliefs.
- To deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘little or no formal faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- To develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- To develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together.
- To have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

3. Organisation

3.3 School worship:

- Takes place daily
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to the Governing body and parents can be invited.
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school halls, classrooms, outside areas or Minster Abbey our Church.
- Is planned, with specific themes from the Diocese, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.

- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

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

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Learn and say prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace. Then allow for a time of silence and reflection.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud and have time to create prayers for the prayer boxes in each class.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.
- Use Psalms with simple responses.
- Celebrate Eucharist.
- Use Anglican sentences and responses (e.g The Lord is here, his spirit is with us)
- Link regularly with the congregation and Vicar of Minster Abbey and Parish.

3.5 The nature of Acts of Worship

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that;

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and supports those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.
- Worship is invitational and children can choose how to show respect and engagement during times of prayer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School in hall	Whole School in hall	Class Worship	Whole School in hall	Whole school in hall
Dept HT	Teachers on rota with visiting Vicar	Pupil led with teacher support	Teachers on rota	Headteacher-celebration of values

4. Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.
During the year there are a number of occasions when the act of worship will take place in the Parish/church and are led by clergy, school staff and pupils.

4.1 Planning

The time of collective worship is planned to ensure that the children are able to gain maximum benefit from the worship as well as enabling the school day to run smoothly and take account of other requirements of the school day.
Each adult plans weekly/and or termly for the Collective Worship they lead. The weekly plans follow the Diocesan plans, however these are adapted and changed to suit the needs of the children or reflect a local or world issue (e.g An earthquake or NSPCC event) Plans are kept in a shared drive on the server and all follow the same template. Class Worship Plans are developed by pupils and the worship leader.

4.2 Collective Worship will follow the pattern outlined below:

- **Gather:** The children gather together by: listening to a piece of chosen music, a performance from the choir or quiet reflection. A candle is lit to show that worship has started and the following words are spoken:
  Leader: “Peace be with you”
  ALL: “And also with you”
- **Engage:** The children engage with the theme of worship through: listening to a Bible story, watching video clips, looking at a painting, studying pictures, participating in front of others
- **Respond:** The children reflect and respond to what they have heard: talk partners, individual responses, making links to school life, reflections, private prayer
- **Send:** Whole school prayers, singing, sharing of a message, an action to complete during the day, listening a piece of music. The candle is then blown out to signify that worship has finished. The children end worship by using the call ‘Go in love and (we insert one of our school Christian values here which changes each term).

5. Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Acts of worship will be always Christian and will respect the integrity and choices of every person. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection. When planning thought should be given to SEND children, especially the VI/HI children, to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.

6. Use of Prayer at St George’s

We strive to embed prayer in to the daily life of the school, this is invitational to all children. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers for use in collective worship and there are boxes around the school for children to record their private prayers. We encourage a balance between children using prayer to share

issues that are relevant to them with God and for children to pray in response to events and happenings in school, the local community and the wider world

- **Daily Prayer:** Our school prayer is said as part of collective worship. Grace is said in the classrooms before children go to the hall for food and is led by Worship leaders in each classroom. Each class finishes the school day with a class prayer, this is decided by the class teacher and Worship leaders in each class.
- **Other Prayers:** The modern version of the Lord's Prayer is said by the whole school on a weekly basis. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers for Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter Services in Church. These are shared with the community by the children.
- **Resources:** A budget will be set each year to provide resources needed for the effective delivery of collective acts of worship.

7. Right of Withdrawal

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school and as such we expect all children and staff to attend. Although parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by requesting and accepting a place at St George's Primary School it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and collective worship in its daily life. If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Headteacher. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

8. Evaluation and Record Keeping

Records of the acts of Collective Worship, which shall include sufficient detail to show that this policy is being put into practice, are kept centrally on the server. They are monitored by the worship lead with regular evaluation of the impact of the worship. The pupils, staff and parents will be asked to contribute to the evaluative process.

9. Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the worship Leader, Headteacher and Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. They should receive copies of the worship scheme, observe whole school acts of collective worship regularly (at least three times per year) and seek the views of pupils. Evaluations from the children will also be taken into account when planning worship sessions. Worship leaders regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of worship in their classes and feedback to the DHT.

10. Self-assessment and Inspection

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by Headteacher and Worship Leader. Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act know as a SIAMS inspection approx. every 5 years.

APPENDIX 1

Guidance for Collective Worship at St Georges' CE Primary School

Collective Worship is divided in to 5 sections:

1. *Gathering*
Year 6 monitors set up the Hall for daily Collective Worship
Children enter silently to chosen music. (A picture or question may be displayed on the IWB if appropriate)
Worship warriors stand up at the beginning of the Worship and light a candle on the worship table.
Two children are selected to begin worship by saying "Peace be with you". The school community responds with: "and also with you"

2. Engage
The theme for worship is introduced to the children and staff through an "I wonder" question.
A Bible story linked to the theme is read aloud (a child or member of staff can be chosen to do this)
The theme is developed by the worship leader/teacher through other resources (video clips, newspapers, artefacts, drama etc)

3. Responding
The children respond to the theme by answering questions in whole school talk partners
Staff become involved with the talk
An identified member of staff (usually the teacher running the worship on that day) captures the children's responses on "appendix 2" and displays them on the Worship board on the stage.
There follows a daily period of reflection.

4. A prayer
This can be adult led or child led. Start the prayer by saying 'if you would like to join me in prayer, please (wash your hands, bring them together and close your eyes), or remain quiet. Say the prayer from the Diocese plans and finish with Amen.

5. *Sending*
The school community sing together a chosen hymn or song linked to the theme. A message is given for the children to consider during the day linked to the theme of the worship.
The leaders closes the act of worship by saying "Go in love and …….. (one of the school Christian values is chosen here) the children respond with "Go in love and …… everyone".
The candle is blown out
Music is played to lead out of worship
The leader dismisses class by class. Year 6 pack away the area.

Appendix 2

Date	Led by
Theme	
Pupils' responses in talk partners	