

Collective Worship Policy



Policy updated by Mrs O'Brien (Deputy Headteacher): June 2024

Policy approved by Governors: July 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Taylor".

Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr M Grogan".

Headteacher

Policy shared with staff and shared on the school website: July 2024

'Never settle for less than your best'

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our school motto

Never settle for less than your best.

Our Vision

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, each member of our community will flourish as resilient, respectful and adaptable individuals prepared for life's journey. Along the way we will encourage and inspire each other to continue growing as beacons of light in our own lives and the wider world.

Our Mission Statement

St. George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part.

Introduction

St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School serving the needs of the children within the Parish of St. George's and the wider community as detailed in our Admissions Policy. This document is a statement of aims, principles and strategies for collective worship at St. George's CE Primary School in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school to provide education within the framework of 'the principles and practices of the Established Church.' The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Worship Leader, Headteacher, Governors and staff.

Aims

- To contribute to children's spiritual development.
- To introduce children to/support them in Church of England Worship.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To explore and share the beliefs of others.
- To contribute to children's moral development.
- To contribute to the general development of pupils.
- To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God.
- To look out to the wider world.

The Place of Worship in the life of our school

Collective Worship is central to the whole life and ethos of the school. It is a starting/reflection point for children to learn more about Christian values, principles and beliefs (as well as other world faiths), which are reinforced throughout our day to day school life and lived out in our School Vision, School Values and Mission Statement. It is a daily opportunity for staff and children to worship and praise God, to spend quiet time in reflection and prayer and to think about the needs of others, thus developing a sense of community both locally and globally.

What we expect children to gain from Worship at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

To contribute to pupils' spiritual development:

- Celebrate all that is of value in life.
- Explore mystery and important questions about life and creation.
- Reflect on, and think more deeply about, important issues.
- Express concerns, hopes, joys etc.
- Develop an ability to meditate and use silence creatively.
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation.
- Build up their relationship with God.

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Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

To introduce children to/support them in Church of England Worship:

- Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
- Learn to use an adapted Eucharist service.
- Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer.

To gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith:

- Explore Christian beliefs about God.
- Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
- Share in Church life and Christian practice.
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.
- Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the church year.

To explore and share the beliefs of others:

- Listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance.
- Celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities.
- Observe special celebrations from other faiths.
- Discover how believers from other faiths worship.

To contribute to pupils' moral development:

- Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others.
- Develop an ability to reflect on moral and social issues.
- Appreciate the positive values and beliefs that people live by.

To contribute to the general development of pupils:

- Participate in group preparation and presentation.
- Develop the skill of speaking to a large audience.
- Develop pupils' repertoire of songs for worship.
- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills.

To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God:

- Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school.
- Build up the sense of a loving, caring community.

To look out to the wider world:

- To celebrate and give thanks for God's world.
- To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.

Planning of Collective Worship

- Our School Vision and Christian Values are always referred to and considered when planning all aspects of Collective Worship.
- The Collective Worship Leader, School Ethos Council and clergy members plan for Worship for the half term prior to the start of each half term through weekly themes.
- Aspects within the themes are distributed to all worship leaders (staff, clergy) the half term prior. These are also distributed to all staff and are displayed in the hall, showing themes broken down into aspects for each day of the week. A copy is also kept in the master worship file.
- Leaders of worship for the week are identified on individual staff copies of the weekly diary which is also displayed in the staffroom.

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- Copies of all worship ideas/starting points from a wide range of resources are provided for staff, clergy and visitors leading worship and a copy is also kept on file.
- Leaders are asked to keep to the aspect given or discuss an alternative with the Worship Leader in order to avoid repetition. Suggested worship guidelines/references are given, however, the leader may prefer to develop the aspect in their own way.
- Whole school worship is focused on School Christian Values, rooted in Biblical teachings, follows the Church Lectionary as appropriate and covers major Christian festivals, saints days and other world faith celebrations.
- Class based worship focuses on whole school reflective questions, Bible stories, and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) or RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) related issues and remains broadly Christian in character, in line with whole school worships.

Implementation of Collective Worship

- Our School Vision and Christian Values are always referred to and considered when leading all aspects of Collective Worship.
- Collective worship takes place at the start of each day with Whole school worship taking place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, singing worship taking place on Tuesday and class based worship taking place each Thursday.
- The Headteacher, Senior Leaders and other members of staff lead Whole School Worship with the Music Leader leading singing worship. A member of the clergy leads worship regularly throughout the year.
- A table with a cross, Bible and a candle provide a focal point for worship (except during Class Worship where the class leading sit at the front of the hall). The type of cross and display around the candle are changed through the year to reflect the period in the Christian calendar and/or other seasonal events.
- Relevant music is used when children are entering the worship area to help children to begin their reflection time.
- Each Collective Worship is started by the 'call and response':
Call: 'Good morning/afternoon and peace be with you'
Response: 'and also with you'
A candle is then lit to signify the start of worship.
- Collective Worship should be presented using a variety of styles and include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.
- For class based worship, teachers should aim to replicate the practices of whole school worship, for example: the use of music at the start and end, time for reflection, focal point of cross/candle, prayer and hymn.
- It is the responsibility of the school staff member leading whole school worship to ensure that all resources used in the worship are tidied/filed away and that any whole school rewards are in place.
- Every class leads worship annually. Parents/carers and class governors are invited to this celebration of learning and collective act of worship.
- In addition to class led worship, children (especially members of the School Ethos Council) are involved in collective worship on a regular basis through drama, music, dance, leading prayers, readings, poetry and volunteering during the worship time etc.
- Each collective worship is concluded by prayer, for example: the school prayer, Lord's Prayer or prayers written by children after which the candle is extinguished and then any messages are given.
- Relevant music should be used for when children are leaving the worship area to allow children to start to reflect upon and start to evaluate the worship they have been involved with.
- During special events (i.e Armistice day) visitors may be invited into school to present during whole school worship.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

- Our School Vision and Christian values are always referred to and considered when evaluating all aspects of collective worship.
- At the end of whole school worship, the leader will invite a staff member to remain in the hall with their class to reflect upon and evaluate the worship. This information is recorded on a worship evaluation sheet which is then on display in the hall.
- With class based worship, evaluations from children are collected via responses to the half termly 'Reflective questions' and recorded in class based worship books. The children may also respond after the worship via the Reflection areas centrally available in KS1 and KS2.
- With class led whole school worship, parents/carers are invited to evaluate via comments in our visitors' book.
- Records of all collective worships and evaluations are kept in the collective worship folder in the school hall.

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The role of the Worship Leader

- To write a Collective Worship Policy in consultation with other members of staff, governors and clergy.
- To plan half termly collective worship in themed blocks, consulting with clergy, pupils and relevant staff over dates and themes.
- To oversee and collate worship evaluations and use these to inform the worship planning process.
- To ensure that everyone leading worship receives a copy of their suggested aspect and is clearly aware of the week's theme, well in advance of their worship.
- To plan and distribute dates for class led whole school worship (yearly) and invite parents/carers and class governors via newsletters as well as ensuring that class teachers invite parents/carers/governors.
- To arrange dates with visiting speakers to lead our worship and provide them with resources required.
- To keep up to date with new ideas and resources and attend relevant training.
- To manage the worship budget and purchase relevant resources within budget.
- To keep photographic evidence from collective worship which is collected and displayed through School Twitter accounts and the worship section of the website.

Storage of Resources

- All music, resource books and files and other relevant resources are kept in the hall cupboards.
- Other reference and worship planning **files** are kept on the worship table in the school hall.
- 'Simply Collective Worship' resources are stored on the shared area of the school network.

Relationship to Diocesan Policy

Provision is in line with the policy of Manchester Diocese.

Parental/Carers rights of withdrawal

Parents/carers are informed in the RE Policy of their rights to withdraw their child from worship. It is expected that parents who wish to exercise this right first discuss it with the Headteacher. Although parents may exercise this right, they would not be able to withdraw from the Christian ethos, values and principles, which pervade all parts of school life at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery.

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