



# Collective Worship Policy

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## Key Document Details

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Be Kind. Be compassionate. Be forgiving.

Collective worship is held according to the guidelines laid down in the E.R.A. of 1998. It is a nondenominational activity which reflects the "broad traditions and practice of the Church of England", as required by the Trust Deed. Worship (worth-ship – showing that God is worthy of our praise, admiration and respect) is a celebration of values held in central importance to a community – our pupils belong to the school community and our daily act of worship is a means of promoting those values.

We hope that all pupils will take part in our daily act of worship but respect the right of parents to withdraw their children if they wish to do so.

### **What are we aiming to do?**

At St. George's C. of E. Primary School, we view collective worship as a vital time when either the whole school or each class meet to share in worship and each other's achievements.

We believe that collective worship should:

- Be an expression of praise and gratitude and a recognition of our vulnerability as humans
- Provide an educational framework to encourage pupil's development
- Be appropriate and relevant to all pupils, regardless of their personal or religious commitment
- Take into consideration the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils
- Develop caring / sharing attitudes amongst the children and a very "special" community sense of belonging
- Promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical awareness and wellbeing and help children to become sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, appreciating that people differ, yet should be valued, whatever their beliefs or culture
- Provide the time for the experience of reflection – private time for staff and pupils without having to express opinions and thoughts.

### **How do we achieve our aims?**

We endeavour to:

- Reflect the Church's year – e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost etc.
- Respond to other events either local or national, accordingly
- As appropriate, reflect the multicultural nature of society
- Provide opportunities for thought, silence and reflection as well as time for participation
- Encourage children to enter and leave the hall in a quiet, orderly manner
- Use appropriate language
- Use a variety of resources / people as appropriate

### **The Collective act of worship**

Collective worship takes place daily, but not always at the same time.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Group Attending</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Whole school worship	Principal	10.45-11.05
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class worship	Class staff	2.45-3.10
<b>Wednesday</b>	Whole school and singing	Singing teacher and school staff	2.30-3.00
<b>Thursday</b>	Clergy/open the book	Church members	10.45-11.05
<b>Friday</b>	Whole school staff	Head boy and girl	2.45-3.15

## **The format of whole school collective worship**

A cross and a candle in a special area are used as the focal point for each act of collective worship. Each act of worship is planned to include a selection of the main elements as detailed:

- A candle is lit to signify the importance of the special time together
- A formal greeting by the lead person to which the children respond
- The main focus of the assembly starts with child participation at relevant times
- A time for reflection related to the focus
- A hymn that relates to the focus where possible
- A prayer that relates to the focus
- The candle is extinguished by a child to signify the end of the special time together.

## **The format of Class Worship**

Worship within the class provides an ideal opportunity to focus at an age appropriate level to the children within each class. In Ducklings Class, worship is centred around the sharing and discussion of a book or story that links into the overall theme of the week / term or that addresses an issue that may have arisen.

Within the remaining classes, Class Worship revolves round the following activities:

- Class diary of reflection
- Celebration of individual achievements outside of school
- Responding to local / national / international issues
- Responding / deepening the theme of the whole school worship

## **Planning the collective worship**

The structure of our collective worship reflects the Christian beliefs and values, focussing on God, the Creation, Jesus and all God's people. Materials from other religious traditions, may also be used, e.g. poems, readings, stories, music, artefacts.

Staff plan according to a chosen focus to ensure continuity and a variety of resources are used to supplement ideas including Roots and Shoots, Oscar out of the Box, Jack in the Box.

The plan for the collective worship theme for the term is recorded on a form by the co-coordinator for worship and shared with the staff.

Opportunities are also provided for children to plan all or part of some worships.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective worship based on the school's core values, SEAL themes, Christian festivals, and/or in response to major incidents in the local/global community. These are published at the beginning of each term. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

## **Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship**

The foundation governors have a key role in the process of monitoring and evaluating to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process and as such their views are sought regarding themes and content.

## **The role of the co-ordinator**

The Act of Worship co-ordinator leads the process by which the focuses are chosen. S/he is responsible for developing the recording system and for maintaining and monitoring the central record ensuring all relevant staff are up to date with current guidance.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

At St. George's C. of E. Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship where they can still reflect on values and behaviour, but not take part in Anglican rituals.