



## Saint George's Church of England School

# Worship Policy

**Approved by:** Local Governing Body

**Date:** March 2022

**Last reviewed on:** February 2022

**Next review due by:** February 2023

*At the heart of our vision is the belief in inclusive, educational excellence; the belief that we are called to serve all pupils, staff, parents and the local community by providing places where all develop and thrive intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually in order to live life in all its fullness.*

# *All Different, All Equal, All Flourishing*

**This policy is guided by our vision; ‘At the heart of our vision is the belief in inclusive, educational excellence; the belief that we are called to serve all pupils, staff, parents and the local community by providing places where all develop and thrive intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually in order to live life in all its fullness’.**

Our collective worship is driven by our Christian vision and is an expression of being a church school. It supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each person makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions; and recognizes and follows the Church’s liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

## **Legal requirements**

- a. 1944 Education Act re-enacted 1988 Education Reform Act and DfES Circular 1/94 gives the governing body responsibility for providing a daily act of worship for all students not withdrawn by parents on the grounds of conscience. Reasonable efforts are made to achieve this.
- b. The content of worship will be in accordance with the trust deed, which is in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England.
- c. Parents will be informed of the right of withdrawal. There is a complaints procedure for parents dissatisfied with the act of worship.

## **Aims**

Daily worship is at the heart of the life of our Church School. It offers regular opportunities for the school community to worship God, to explore and share the beliefs of the Anglican Church, and to reinforce its Christian values.

- a. To provide opportunities for the spiritual development of the whole school community through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- b. To celebrate and explore the Christian vision and underpinning values of our school community, which are creativity; honesty; resilience; inclusion, stewardship and thankfulness.
- c. To enable all students and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world.
- d. To acquaint students and staff with appropriate Christian worship practices and the language of Christian faith as exemplified in the Church of England.
- e. To welcome students and staff of all other faiths or no faith to attend worship.

## **Strategies for achievement of aims**

- a. The ‘Leader of Spiritual and Character Development’ will be supported by the Chaplain, Deputy Headteacher and the Governors Ethos Committee. All students will relay regular feedback about their worship experience via the form worship reps, student council and student surveys.
- b. The content of worship will be planned, prepared and monitored to give a coherent and progressive experience for all students.
- c. The school’s acts of worship will draw upon generally agreed elements to give students a variety of religious experiences: prayer, reflection, stillness, music, student involvement and responses, visual and multimedia material, reading and hearing scripture and Eucharistic worship.

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- d. Eucharistic worship, appropriately communicated, will be a part of the programme such that each student will have the opportunity to experience or be taught about the Eucharist once per year as a minimum.

## Role of the 'Leader of Spiritual and Character Development'

- a. Devising a programme of worship in termly blocks with specific themes in consultation with the Chaplain and Deputy Headteacher; and adapting for remote delivery when necessary.
- b. Publishing the programme of worship to staff, governors and students.
- c. Monitoring the programme and reporting on it to the Leadership Group and Ethos Committee.
- d. Arranging in-service training for staff concerned with the delivery of worship and co-ordinating the involvement of outside agencies and speakers.
- e. With the Chaplain, co-ordinating the worship budget and resources for acts of worship
- f. Leading the morning 'Thought for the day' tannoy.
- g. Ensuring relevant displays in tutor rooms and that tutors are supported to follow up worship themes where appropriate

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The 'Leader of Spiritual and Character Development' will monitor the quality of collective worship along with the Chaplain and senior leaders. Students will be asked for their views about worship through termly worship rep meetings and student surveys.

The 'Leader of Spiritual and Character Development' is also responsible for contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process with a key focus on **Strand 6 – The impact of collective worship**. In developing collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspires the school community they will need to evaluate the extent to which worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
  - b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
  - c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
  - d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
  - e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.
- Governors will monitor and evaluate Collective Worship, at least annually.
  - The Governor Ethos Committee will evaluate the impact of worship.
  - Issues arising from evaluation will be fed back to those leading worship to secure improvement.

## Review

**This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis. The next review is due February 2023.**

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