



Saint George's
Church of England School

Worship Policy

April 2024

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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 recognises 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

- 1.1. 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DfES Circular 1/94 gives the governing body responsibility for providing a daily act of worship for all students not withdrawn by parents on the grounds of conscience.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.
- 1.2. The content of worship will be in accordance with the Trust Deed, which is in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England.
- 1.3. Parents will be informed of the right of withdrawal. There is a complaints procedure for parents dissatisfied with the Act of Worship.

Aims

- 2 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



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the beliefs of the Anglican Church, and to reinforce its Christian values. We aim to:

- 2.1.1. Provide opportunities for the spiritual development of the whole school community through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.
- 2.1.2. Celebrate and explore the Christian vision and values that underpin our school community, these are Creativity; Honesty; Resilience; Inclusion, Stewardship and Thankfulness (CHRIST).
- 2.1.3. Enable all students and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world.
- 2.1.4. Acquaint students and staff with appropriate Christian worship practices and the language of Christian faith as exemplified in the Church of England liturgy.
- 2.1.5. Contribute to school improvement strategies through the messages of Christian worship.
- 2.1.6. Invite and welcome students and staff of all faiths and none to attend worship.

Strategies for achievement of aims

- 3.1 Those who lead others in developing spirituality and character across the school are supported by the Chaplain, the Executive Headteacher and the Governors' Ethos Committee to put our vision into practice.
- 3.2 All students give regular feedback about their worship experience via the form worship reps, student council and student surveys.
- 3.3 The content of worship is well-planned, prepared and monitored to give a coherent and progressive experience for all students.
- 3.4 The school's Acts of Worship will draw upon generally agreed elements to give students a variety of religious experiences including:
 - Prayers
 - reflection;
 - stillness;
 - music;
 - student involvement and responses;



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- visual and multimedia material;
 - opportunities for creativity;
 - reading aloud and listening to scripture;
 - Eucharistic worship.
- 3.5 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. We aim to provide this experience in terms 2, 4 and 6.

Role of the 'Leader of Spiritual and Character Development'

- 4.1 Devising a programme of worship with specific themes in consultation with the Chaplain and Executive Headteacher (termly blocks (secondary phase) and weekly blocks (primary phase)).
- 4.2 Publishing the programme of worship to staff, students and parents.
- 4.3 Monitoring the quality of the implementation of the programme during Hall, Period 6 and Church worship and reporting into the Leadership Group and Ethos Committee.
- 4.4 Arranging in-service training for staff concerned with the delivery of worship and coordinating the involvement of outside agencies and speakers.
- 4.5 With the Chaplain, coordinating the worship budget and resources for Acts of Worship
- 4.6 Ensuring relevant displays in tutor rooms (secondary phase) and classrooms (primary phase) and that tutors and primary phase classroom teachers are supported to follow up worship themes with appropriate activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.1 The Chaplain and Leader of Spiritual and Character Development will work together to monitor the quality of collective worship along other senior leaders. Students will be asked for their views about worship through regular worship rep meetings and student surveys.



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- 5.2 They also play a lead role in contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process with a key focus on **IQ3 – How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?**
- 5.3 In developing collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspires the school community, it is necessary to evaluate the extent to which worship:
- 5.3.1 Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
 - 5.3.2 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.
 - 5.3.3 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.
 - 5.3.4 Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
 - 5.3.5 Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.
- 5.4 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

6. This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis. **The next review is due April 2025.**

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