

Collective Worship Policy

relating to St George's C of E Primary School

was approved by the Governing Body on

12.11.24

As we work within a Church school, the staff and governors of Great Bromley Church of England Primary will seek to ensure that within all policies and procedures we incorporate opportunities for identifying, understanding and developing our core Christian values and vision.

Our Vision

Working together, learning for life.....

*With the **compassion** of Jesus, we treat others with kindness and patience*



*With the **courage** of St George, we stand up for what is right*

*With **respect** and **friendship** we build each other up*



St George's Church of England Primary school Collective Worship Policy

Date: Autumn term 2024

Name of school	St George's Church of England Primary School
School vision	
School values	

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision and the associated values we derive from them. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London



- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher.

Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).¹ Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London



will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.

- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship: gather, engage, respond, send. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

We have strong and productive links with St George's Church. The rural missioner leads collective worship at least three times per term. We also have other visiting leads throughout the academic year from the local Christian community. We visit at St George's Church for worship at least four times per year as part of the Christian calendar.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At St George's Church of England Primary School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to St George's Church of England Primary School, it is hoped that no one will feel they want to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in



keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

Leadership

- The Headteacher leads collective worship twice per week. On a Monday, the focus is on our school vision and values; on a Friday, the focus is on celebrating the successes and achievements of members of the school community
- Once per week, collective worship is led by a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. Open the Book
- Once per week, a member of teaching staff leads the children in a singing worship
- Once per week, teachers lead a class-based act of collective worship which builds on the themes of the week in an age-appropriate way

Planning

- Worship is planned on a termly basis, in consultation with visiting leads
- Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year
- Our Christian values are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship
- We make explicit links between Bible stories, the Christian values of the school and the lives of our children
- We explore the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

Organisation

- Collective worship takes place at the beginning of the school day, immediately after registration
- During the week, four of our collective worships take place at whole school level; one day per week is for class-based collective worship which is an opportunity to explore the whole school themes at an age-specific level
- Whole school collective worship takes place in the school Hall. The school vision and values are very visible. The collective worship table is prepared each day by Y6 prefects. The collective worship display incorporates:

The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,

The trinity candle

Ritual and liturgical responses (greeting and sending out dice)



Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff/headteacher/Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and Foundation Governors.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Implementation of Policy

The Headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London



Review Date:

Autumn term 2026