



### St George's Vision Statement

At St George's we are proud to be one family of lifelong learners who know that they are special to God.  
Our Family is built upon a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect.  
Our community gives our children the freedom to flourish and succeed.

*A flourishing fellowship: Learning together with God by our side.*

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Collective Worship</b>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Headteacher
<b>Date:</b>	September 2022
<b>Review:</b>	September 2023

### Introduction

At St George's Bickley CE Primary School: 'We are united to one another by common beliefs, purposes and goals'. Collective worship is central to the sharing and expression of our school's Christian ethos; how we conduct our worship defines our distinctive character as a church school.

Worship contributes to the areas of experience that are at the heart of the curriculum i.e. the aesthetic, moral, linguistic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual activities of our children.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child 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.

### Aims

Collective worship at St. George's is the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

### The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students' /pupils' age

- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. Teachers attend acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time (this includes academies).

### Planning

We use Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our school. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Worship consists of 4 stages:

Gather – we welcome the community with the lighting of a candle and sharing the peace

Engage – a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message

Respond – pupils, for discuss, share, reflect and pray

Send – We close with a final prayer and a blessing. Collective Worship ends with the blowing out of the candle.

### Collective Worship Schedule

Monday	Reflection
Tuesday	Y1 & Y2 in hall the rest of the school in class
Wednesday	Y3 & Y4 in hall the rest of the school in class
Thursday	Y5 & Y6 in hall the rest of the school in class
Friday	In class, every other Friday in hall with visitors.

### Procedure

Classes proceed to the hall walking quietly lining up in silent lines waiting to enter the hall; either reflecting on a question, listening quietly to the music playing for entry, or singing a well-known hymn. Teachers sit near their classes. Visitors are always welcomed into the Collective Worship.

### Withdrawal from the Collective Act of Worship

Parents have the right of withdrawing their children from the collective act of worship; although as a Church of England school, it is expected that on requesting entry to the school, the family is in sympathy with the Christian religion.

### Prayers

Grace is said in class at lunchtime and prayers are said at the end of the day. Children and teachers lead these prayers as appropriate.

**Special Services throughout the year – These events may alter in format and location, if restrictions are in place.**

### Harvest (whole school)

The school harvest service is held in September at school. Each class makes a contribution by way

of readings, music, prayers, poetry or dance and gifts are brought up by representatives of every class. These gifts are distributed to Bromley Food Bank.

## **Christmas**

### **Key Stage 1**

Year 2 perform a Nativity play to parents and the school in the school hall.

### **EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christingle**

Christingles are made with a local church and the Christingle Service is at St George's Church.

### **Key Stage 2**

Attend a service based on the traditional 'Nine Lessons and Carols', which is held in St George's Church. Each class contributes an individual item and readings by children, governors, parents, staff and children. All families are invited to attend.

## **Easter**

### **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 separately.**

Our Easter service is held at St George's Church. The Easter story is retold and all classes contribute readings and prayers.

### **Leavers' Eucharist**

The Year 6 school leavers lead the worship at the end of the school year. The leavers also attend the service. Families are invited to attend.