

St George's School, Bourton

Collective Worship Policy

Philosophy

St George's School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to worship. It is attended by students, staff and any visitors in school, who are very welcome to come and join in.

At St George's School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide the time and space for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at St George's School that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings (including the use of our Reflection Diaries, particularly during Key Stage worship).
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship take both the form of a whole school acts of worship but also separate acts of worship for students in different Key Stages. The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the trust deed.

At this Church of England School, worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount. We share with children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian

concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Right of Withdrawal

At St George's 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 followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. If required, the school will establish suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

Organisation

<u>Day</u>	<u>Person Leading</u>	<u>Main Hall</u>	<u>Classroom</u>
Monday (11.15)	Head/SMT	Whole School	
Tuesday (11.15)	Key stage staff	Key stage 2	Key stage 1
Wednesday (11.15)	Church Leader	Whole School	
Thursday (11.15)	Singing Leader	Whole School	
Friday (2.40)	Head/SMT	Whole School with parents and friends	

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each week there is a theme for Collective worship (on Wednesdays, the Open the Book group or clergy follow the OTB structure). These are published at the beginning of the term. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that teachers will re-enforce this in reflections in class time. 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 children students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Our Christian values are also taught to the children through collective worship themes.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the Staff room.

This policy was reviewed by P & S Committee on : 3rd March 2017

This policy was adopted by the Full Board of Governors on : 13th March 2017