

St George's Central CE Primary School



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

St. George's Central is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School serving the needs of the children within the Parish of St. George's and the wider community as detailed in our Admissions Policy.

This document is a statement of aims, principles and strategies for collective worship at St. George's CE Primary School in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school to provide education within the framework of "the principles and practices of the Established Church."

It was revised and amended in the Autumn term 2014 by the worship leaders through the process of:

- a) consultation with staff, clergy and governors.
- b) audit of present provision.
- c) review of present policy.
- d) consideration of the Manchester Diocesan Guidelines for Worship.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the collective worship leaders, governors, clergy and all staff.

Our Mission Statement

St George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part. St George's Central seeks to provide quality education rooted in the Christian faith, serving the spiritual, moral, and educational needs of the community of which it is part.

Our school motto

Never settle for less than your best.

The place of worship in the life of the school

Collective worship is central to the whole life and ethos of the school. It is a starting/reflection point for children to learn more about Christian values, principles and beliefs, which are reinforced throughout our day to day school life and lived out in our Mission Statement. It is a daily opportunity for staff and children to worship and praise God, to spend quiet time in reflection and prayer and to think about the needs of others, thus developing a sense of community both locally and globally.

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Aims

- To contribute to pupils' spiritual development.
- To introduce children to/support them in Church of England Worship.
- To gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To explore and share the beliefs of others.
- To contribute to pupils' moral development.
- To contribute to the general development of pupils.
- To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God.
- To look out to the wider world.

What we expect children to gain from worship at St. George's Central

To contribute to pupils, spiritual development:

- Celebrate all that is of value in life - truth, love, goodness, beauty etc.
- Explore mystery and important questions about life and creation.
- Reflect on, and think more deeply about, important issues.
- Express concerns, hopes, joys etc.
- Develop an ability to meditate and use silence creatively.
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation.
- Build up their relationship with God.

To introduce children to/support them in Church of England Worship:

- Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
- Learn to use an adapted Eucharist service.
- Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer.

To gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith:

- Explore Christian beliefs about God.
- Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
- Share in Church life and Christian practice.
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.
- Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the church year.

To explore and share the beliefs of others:

- Listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance.
- Celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities.
- Observe special celebrations from other faiths.
- Discover how believers from other faiths worship.

To contribute to pupils' moral development:

- Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others.
- Develop an ability to reflect on moral and social issues.
- Appreciate the positive values and beliefs that people live by.

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To contribute to the general development of pupils:

- Participate in group preparation and presentation.
- Develop the skill of speaking to a large audience.
- Develop pupils' repertoire of songs for worship.
- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills.

To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God:

- Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school.
- Build up the sense of a loving, caring community.

To look out to the wider world:

- To celebrate and give thanks for God's world.
- To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.

Planning and implementation of collective worship

- Collective worship takes place daily with Tuesday, Thursday and Friday being whole school worship, Singing Worship on Wednesday and class worship each Monday. Eucharist takes place termly for Y5/6.
- A member of the clergy leads worship fortnightly.
- The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Senior Leaders and other members of staff lead whole school worship with all teaching staff leading Singing Worship on a rota basis.
- Due to the distance between St. George's Central School and St. George's Church, worship takes place in church termly.
- Every class leads worship annually. Parents/Carers and class governors are invited to this celebration of learning and collective act of worship.
- Worship takes place at the start of the school day.
- The collective worship leader, School Council and clergy members plan for worship for the half term prior to the start of each half term through weekly themes. Aspects within the themes are distributed to all worship leaders (staff, clergy) the half term prior. Leaders are asked to keep to the aspect given or discuss an alternative with the worship leader in order to avoid repetition. Suggested worship guidelines/references are given, however, the leader may prefer to develop the aspect in their own way.
- Worship is evaluated regularly by staff and children.
Parents/Carers are invited to evaluate class worship in a comments book.
- In addition to class led class worship, pupils are involved in collective worship on a regular basis through drama, music, dance, leading prayers, readings, poetry and volunteering during the worship time etc.
- A range of other worship experiences are also provided which include reflection time.
- A table with a cross, Bible and a candle provide a focal point for worship (except during class worship where the class leading sit at the front of the hall).
- Relevant music is played upon entry and exit to worship time when silence is expected in order for children to begin their reflection time. A candle is also lit at the start of worship. Extinguishing the candle marks the end of worship time after which notices may be given.
- Use is made of IT and iPads wherever appropriate to enhance delivery and pupils' understanding.

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Weekly worship rota:

Monday:	Class worship
Tuesday:	Whole school worship
Wednesday:	Singing worship
Thursday:	Whole school worship (delivered by vicar fortnightly)
Friday:	Whole school worship/Class worship

Records

- Half termly rotas for the forthcoming half term are displayed in the staffroom, showing themes broken down into aspects for each day of the week. A copy is also kept in the master records file.
- Leaders of worship for the week are identified on individual staff copies of the weekly diary which is also displayed in the staffroom.
- Copies of all worship ideas/starting points from a wide range of resources are provided for staff, clergy and visitors leading worship and a copy is also kept on file.
- Parents/Carers evaluate class led worship in a comments book.
- Copies of weekly evaluations from staff and half termly evaluations from children are kept with copies of planning in record files.

The role of the worship leaders

- To write a worship policy in consultation with other members of staff, governors and clergy.
- To plan half termly worship in themed blocks, consulting with clergy, pupils and staff leading worship.
- To oversee and collate worship evaluation.
- To write an annual action plan showing key areas for development in worship.
- To ensure that everyone leading worship receives a copy of their suggested aspect and is clearly aware of the week's theme, well in advance of their worship.
- To plan and distribute dates for class worship (yearly) and invite parents/carers and class governors via newsletters as well as ensuring that class teachers invite parents/carers/governor.
- To discuss and plan with the clergy dates and times for their worship.
- To keep up to date with new ideas and resources and attend relevant training.
- To manage the worship budget and purchase relevant resources within budget.
- To keep photographic evidence.

Storage of Resources

- All music, overheads, Primary Assembly Files and other relevant resources are kept in the hall cupboards.
- Other reference and worship planning books are kept in the Headteacher's office.

Relationship to Diocesan policy

Provision is in line with the policy of Manchester Diocese.

Parental/Carer rights of withdrawal

Parents/carers are informed in the RE Policy of their rights to withdraw their child from worship. It is expected that parents who wish to exercise this right first discuss it with the Headteacher. Although parents may exercise this right, they would not be able to withdraw from the Christian ethos, values and principles, which pervade all of school life at St. George's Central CE School.

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Conclusion

At St. George's Central we believe that it is our professional duty to share this policy with all new members of staff and parents/carers on request. The policy will be reviewed in the light of experiences, new developments or requirements. The leaders will discuss any aspect of this policy on request.

Signed: *Mr M Grogan*

Mr M Grogan (Headteacher)

Date: 26/2/15

Signed: *Mrs J Morris*

Mrs J Morris (RE leader)

Date: 26/2/15

Signed: *Mrs S Yates*

Mrs S Yates (Governor)

Date: 26/2/15

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