



## St George's CE Primary Collective Worship Policy

### Our Vision Statement:

Be brave. Be great. Be you.

### Our Culture Statement:

We are fun. We are together.

### Aims:

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Policy Statement states:

*'The daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. In a Church School it should always be Christian worship and it should reflect the traditions of the Church of England. It should provide opportunity for everyone in the school to:*

- *Express praise and thanksgiving to God*
- *Reflect on the attributes of God*
- *Reflect on the teachings of Christ*
- *Affirm Christian values and attitudes*
- *Share each other's joys and challenges*
- *Celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar*
- *Foster respect and unity*
- *Deepen spiritual awareness*

*Collective worship has a major contribution to upholding the religious character of a Church School and ensuring that it is understood and owned by all pupils and staff. Collective Worship should be seen to reflect something spiritual or separate from ordinary school activities and should be concerned with the worship of God.'*

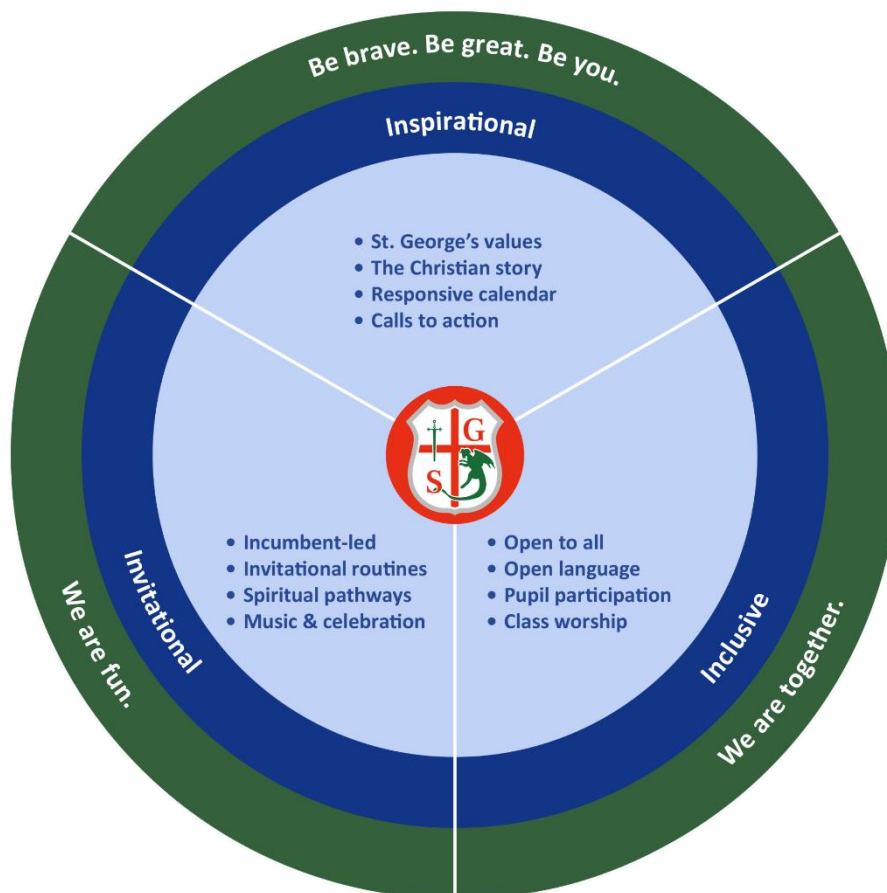
As a school within the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, our aim is to provide pupils with collective worship which meets the objectives set out above.



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### Collective Worship at St George's:

Collective Worship at St George's is designed to link our school vision to the Church of England's vision for collective worship to be: inspirational, invitational, and inclusive.



### Inspirational:

#### St George's values:

Collective worship is a time when we teach our school values, which are all rooted in the Christian story and have direct links to our vision and cultural statements. It is an opportunity for pupils to reflect on how they can be inspired to live out our vision statement through holding true to our school values. Please click [here](#) to find out more about our school values.

#### The Christian Story:

Collective worship is a time when we learn from the Christian story. We hear bible stories and respond to verses linked to our vision statement or the liturgical calendar. It is a time to use these as a springboard for reflection and to see how it may impact how we may live our lives.

#### Responsive calendar:

Collective worship is a time when we respond to what is happening in the world around us. We learn about the Christian calendar and the importance and rhythm this brings to our lives and the lives of those in modern day



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Britain. We also respond to world events and to nationally celebrated special days which could cause purposeful reflection on how we can live out our vision statement.

### **Calls to action:**

All collective worships end with a call to action; a response to what we have learned and how this may impact us. The question of how what we have learned can further help us to live out our vision statement is continuously asked.

## **Invitational:**

### **Incumbent-led:**

Our incumbent, Father Richard, is incredibly active in school-life and leads worship weekly. He invites all to learn from the Christian story and invites us to our Church for more formal times of collective worship, such as Harvest and Easter.

### **Invitational routines:**

Routines and symbols are integral to our collective worship. Pupils are invited to participate at the level they feel comfortable.

### **Spiritual pathways:**

Collective worship is a time when pupils are invited to access a variety of spiritual pathways. Collective worship includes times of silence, of singing, of meaningful discussion, of reflection. To find out more about our spiritual pathways provision, click [here](#).

### **Music & celebration:**

Collective worship is a time when pupils are invited to sing and to dance. They are invited to listen and perform music which is traditionally Anglican, as well as genres which represent our community and life in modern day Britain.

### **Welcoming St George's families:**

Parents are invited to attend special 'open-worships', led by the incumbent.

## **Inclusive:**

### **Open to all:**

Collective worship is open to all pupils. All pupils are invited to attend across the week, no matter their background or starting point.

### **Right of withdrawal:**

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. The Education Act 1988 states that all registered pupils should take part in a daily act of collective worship unless wholly or partly withdrawn by parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents considering this are encouraged to discuss this with the Head Teacher. Those then wishing to exercise this right must inform the Head Teacher in writing. The school will arrange a place of safety for such children while collective worship takes place, and parents should provide activities for their children during this time.



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### Open language:

Careful attention is placed on the language used in collective worship. We do not presume faith or participation, but all are invited.

### Class Worship time:

Class worship is a time for pupils to respond in a highly age-appropriate way to the value of the month. It is a time when a more intimate discussion can take place and pupils can reflect and share ideas with their peers.

### Pupil participation:

Collective worship is a time for pupils to feel included, that their participation is valued. Pupils participate in a variety of ways at St George's. Pupil teams prepare the hall space before and after worship time. The pupils lead parts of our routines like lighting the candle and leading elements of celebration worships. Our School Council and Faith Team plan and lead a variety of collective worships across the year. At the beginning and end of every month, our class worships are led by pupils on our radio system. Pupils prepare reflections on our monthly value. They begin the month with an introduction that is then followed up in the proceeding collective worships. They then round the month off with a synopsis of what we have learned from the value. It is highly valued by our community and the pupils are proud to lead it.

### Weekly Cycle:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Values	World Theme	Class Worship	Incumbent-led	Celebration

### Values:

Our school values are all rooted in the Christian story and have direct links to our vision and cultural statements. Each month we have a value we focus on, making links between the Christian story, world events, school-life and how we live our lives.

### World Theme:

At St George's, we are responsive to what is happening in the world around us. During weekly worships, we respond to the Christian calendar, world events and have a specific focus on caring for our environment. We offer pupils the opportunity to reflect on how these events can help us live out our vision statement and live out better lives.

### Class worships:

Class worship is a time for pupils to respond in a highly age-appropriate way to the value of the month. It is a time when a more intimate discussion can take place and pupils can reflect and share ideas with their peers.

### Incumbent-led:



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Our incumbent leads worship weekly. They invite all to learn from the Christian story and hosts more formal times of collective worship, such as Harvest and Easter, at the local Parish Church.

### **Celebration:**

Fridays are a time when the school dances together and celebrates together. Pupils are awarded certificates and badges linked to our learner qualities and for living out our school vision statement. We also reflect together on how we have made these achievements and how we can be better still next week. Celebration is an important part of pupils having the opportunity to recognise their vocation to being the person God is calling them to be.

### **Eucharist:**

In line with practice in our local parish, we offer Eucharist to all of our pupil community. This is led by our incumbent.

We hold three services a year when the Eucharist is offered. Two are in school, once at the beginning of the school year and once at the beginning of the new year. We also offer the Eucharist during our Easter service, which is held at St George's church. Families are well-informed about the procedures and there is a variety of ways in which pupils can participate. As with everything we do, the Eucharist is invitational and inclusive.

Parents are notified of their right of withdrawal prior to the service and the school will arrange a place of safety for such children while collective worship takes place

### **Visitors:**

Visitors to the school are carefully selected. Visitors are briefed on the expectations of the school concerning collective worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Policy states:

*'Collective Worship has a major contribution to upholding the religious character of a Church School and ensuring that it is understood and owned by all pupils and staff. For this reason, it is recommended a working party comprising representatives of the Foundation Governors and teaching staff meet periodically to monitor Collective Worship policy and practice.'*

In line with this, monitoring and evaluation takes place through:

- Faith Team members of the Governing Board meeting to review Collective Worship policies and practices.
- The Religious Education Subject leader reporting on pupil voice through regular surveys.
- Responsive adaptations by the incumbent and leaders of Whole School Worship.

**Date:** October 2023

**Next Review:** October 2026



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