

St. George's School & Collective Worship



St. George's School is a Church of England Academy. This means we follow the Christian faith from an Anglican point of view. Faith and spiritual development are important to us. It is central to who we are as a school. Everything we do, from our relationships with each other, to the way we learn, to the pastoral care of our students, is informed by our beliefs.

We worship once a day at approximately 2pm. For four of the five school days worship takes place in the form room. These acts of worship are led by the form tutor or students who take worship on a rota basis. One day a week worship takes place in the College group which meets in the school's Main Hall. This act of worship is led by the Head of College, a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team and / or the Chaplain.

Acts of worship vary according to who leads them but will always consist of a bible reading, prayer, and some space for personal thought and reflection. Worship leaders may also use videos, music, dance, drama, poetry, personal testimony, visiting speakers, workshops, practical activities, stories and contemporary news items.

Worship is organised around a theme of the week which follows the Church's year. In the Autumn Term we look at Harvest, Remembrance and Advent / Christmas. In the Spring Term we look at Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week. In the Summer Term we look at Easter, Trinity and Pentecost. Our themes also refer to the 15 values or gifts which we believe characterise a Christian person, for example thankfulness, service, compassion, hope and forgiveness (for more information please see <http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk/>).

Frequently asked questions:

Does my child have to be baptised or christened to come to your school?

No. Provided you meet the residential requirements to come to St. George's, your child will be warmly welcome.

My family doesn't attend church. Will this be a problem?

Not at all. We welcome everyone, including people of other faiths and no faith at all. Where students are unfamiliar with aspects of Christian faith and practice, we have a strong Religious Education Department and our very own Chaplain to help explain.

Do you expect my child to become a Christian while he / she is at your school?

No. We hope we offer students enough information and experience of the Christian faith to feel that he or she would like to know more, but that's not a decision we ever force on our students. They have to have to make up their own minds.

My child is a practising Christian already. How can he / she be helped to grow in the faith?

At school we have a Christian Union; a discussion group – 'Reaction' - for students in years 10 and 11; the opportunity to become a 'Spirituality Captain'; extra-curricular faith related trips and activities which students may opt into; and good relationships with our local clergy and their churches.

Does my child have to participate in worship?

It is a legal requirement that an act of worship is offered everyday in every school in this country. As a faith school, we take this requirement very seriously and expect that any student taking a place at St. George's will be a part of the worship life of the school. However, we also understand that the students who come to us will have a variety of views about faith and religion; so we simply ask that students behave in a respectful manner as worship takes place.

While it is your right as a parent / carer to withdraw your child from worship, please be aware that the Christian ethos of our Church of England School permeates all that we do and withdrawing your child from worship will not mean withdrawal from the Christian ethos.

If you do wish to withdraw your child from worship you will need to contact the Head Teacher.

For further information about the school's worship policy, please see the school's website or ask for a copy.