



## 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 8:50am. 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. On the fifth day worship takes place in the school's Main Hall and students gather either as College groups or Year groups. This act of worship is led by a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team, or Head of Year, or Lead Practitioner, or Chaplain or invited guest.

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/>). Additional themes of the week are provided by our students.

Frequently asked questions:

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

No. Provided your child meets the entry requirements to come to St. George's, he or she 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. School subscribes to the views of the Church of England's Education Office:

“(Our) vision, in line with the Church of England’s role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole human community and its environment, whether national, regional or local. It is hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings. It invites collaboration, alliances, negotiation of differences, and the forming of new settlements in order to serve the flourishing of a healthily plural society and democracy, together with a healthily plural educational system.”

*The Church of England Education Office, ‘Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.’ (2016), 2.*

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; 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 the duty of the Governing Body to secure that all pupils at our Church of England Academy, take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. This is required by the 1944 Education Act, the Education Reform Act 1988 section 6, Department of Education circular 1/94, the Trust Deed of our school, the demands of Diocesan policy and the traditions of our Academy.

However, the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts also provide that parents can request permission for their child to be excused from worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request and School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship. Please be aware that the right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

*For further information about School’s Worship Policy, please see the Worship Policy link on this website or ask for a paper copy from Main Reception.*

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