St George's Church of England Infant and Preschool Collective Worship Policy

Signed: **Signed:**

Chair of Governors **Foundation Governor**

Date: March 2024

Date for Review: March 2027

Inspire, Believe, Achieve-With God, all things are possible, Matthew 19v26.

Be inspired with all our mind, believe in ourselves to achieve and flourish

The 6 Principles of Nurture:

The nurturing approach offers a range of opportunities for children and young people to engage with missing early nurturing experiences, giving them the social and emotional skills to do well at school and with peers, develop their resilience and capacity to deal more confidently with the trials and tribulations of life, for life.

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language is a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared Christian values (community, compassion, commitment, courage and love) and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Support and live our school vision
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a Collective Worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the Collective Worship.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Collective Worship is in accordance with the Church of England Statement of Entitlement (June 2016) enabling pupils to understand Christianity as a living faith that influences lives and has shaped British culture and heritage

2.4 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold Collective Worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.5 Collective Worship is an expression of the St George's Christian vision.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning Collective Worship, which is normally a whole-school Collective Worship, although it can be held separately in classes, year groups or key stages too.

3.2 We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Collective Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The Head Teacher or other members of staff normally conduct Collective Worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups and other organisations conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our Collective Worship as part of a series of caring themes well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St. George's School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in Collective Worship.

3.6 We invite parents and members of the Benefice to attend special Collective Worships, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome Governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

3.8 Worship Leaders plan and lead collective worship once every half term.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parental requests must be agreed by the Head Teacher.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of all governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.