



# COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY

September 2021 to September 2022

## Our IFtL Family

At IFtL, we are committed to developing a family of schools who inspire all of our futures through learning. Schools within our Trust share the same values and ethos; our teams are constantly in the pursuit of development and excellence everyday. We open doors to opportunity and unlock the potential of both our children and our adults so that we all develop the confidence to achieve both our independent and collective ambitions. At IFtL, we are never alone. We know we are stronger together – one united family striving for excellence for all, in everything we do.

*IFtL is a trust established by educationalists, with education and improving outcomes for children at the heart of all we do.*



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<b>Nominated Governor:</b>	D Robinson



## Vision and Values

St. Mary & St. Giles (SMSG) Church of England School has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the centre of school life. We provide an inclusive, supportive and caring environment shaped by Christian values in which children can learn and flourish.

Our vision states:

***Our aim is for all to belong to a safe and happy community which celebrates our diversity and differences. Our children will be well prepared for the next step of their journey as responsible citizens. We aspire for all to flourish.***

Our Christian values of kindness, love, thankfulness, wisdom and responsibility are a strong feature of our school culture and practices. Our values are linked to Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. To reflect our diverse community, we also link our values to stories from various faiths and cultural background. By linking our values to Bible stories, we aim to help children develop a confident and age-appropriate understanding of positive moral messages.

<b>Christian Value</b>	<b>Associated Bible Stories</b>
<b>Responsibility</b>	The parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37 Zacchaeus the Tax Collector – Luke 19: 1-10
<b>Love</b>	The Parable of the Lost Son – Luke 15: 11-32 The Parable of the Lost Sheep – Luke 15: 1-7
<b>Wisdom</b>	Adam and Eve – Genesis 3 Jesus is Tested in the Wilderness – Luke 4: 1-13
<b>Thankfulness</b>	Noah and the Flood – Genesis 6 Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers – Luke 17: 11-19

We welcome children from the community without reference to ability or aptitude, and irrespective of whether they are of the Christian faith, another faith, or no faith, but we expect parents to respect and support the Christian ethos of our school and its importance to our community.

## Aims

At SMSG, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. We aspire to make Collective Worship that is invitational, reflective and engaging for all members of our school community. There is plenty of flexibility in the provision of collective worship to enable all pupils to benefit without compromising their beliefs.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

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- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

## **Legal Requirements**

In Church schools the requirement is to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed. As a Church of England School, SMSG seeks to build on the rich, lived diversity of Christian tradition and identity through our vision, values, worship and whole school curriculum.

## **Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our school culture and ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

## **Pattern Of Worship**

An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day, usually in the afternoons for approximately 20 minutes. These will be linked to either our school values, Bible stories, events in the Christian calendar, appropriate national events or stories and events from other faiths. Termly assembly themes are compiled by the Senior Leadership Team and the RE Leader to ensure a balanced coverage. On occasion visitors, such as Bridgebuilder Trust or local Church leaders, will invited to lead assemblies.

Our pattern of worship is outlined below however, this may be altered at any time to suit the needs of the school.

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- Mon: Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher to include celebration of pupil achievements.
- Tues: Class or Year group Worship
- Wed: Site Specific Worship to include focus on Singing
- Thurs: Worship led by RE leader to focus on specific Bible stories and features of the Christian faith
- Fri: Class or Year group Worship

Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents or guardians, however we recognise and encourage those of other faiths (and none) to participate to the extent that they are comfortable and able, and to observe and learn about the Christian faith in worship when they cannot participate. For example, we have a school prayer but children are free to participate or to sit in silent respect whilst others pray. Our school has children from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths and many who have no faith. All are respected.

## Church Visits

In addition to our worship in school, we take children to St Mary & St Giles Church to worship. This usually includes:

- Harvest: Late September/early October to thank God for our food
- Christmas: last week of Autumn Term, for Christmas Carols and readings
- Lent: last week of Spring Term, to recall the last week of Jesus' life leading to his Crucifixion
- Easter:* This is followed in the first week back in the summer term with a school communion service in the school hall to celebrate the Easter resurrection story
- Leavers: Last day of the academic year to celebrate our children leaving and moving on to secondary school as well as any staff leavers.

All parents / carers and friends of the school are welcome to join us for these public acts of worship.



## **Features of Worship**

Whole School Worships follow a pattern where the school community is are welcomed and engaged in a story or anecdote linked to the theme. Opportunities for reflection on the morals and values considered are offered and worship will end with a prayer. Class and year group worships will take a more personal age-appropriate approach to suit the needs of the children.

## **Worship Leaders**

At SMSG, children can apply to become Worship Leaders as part of our Pupil Leadership Team. These children take on additional responsibilities for planning and leading Worships. They will write prayers that reflect class discussions and worship themes and they may also do Bible readings both in school or at church.

## **Collective Acts of Worship Books**

Each class has a book which records their Worship journey. Children are invited to contribute to these books with prayers and thoughts on the themes that have been discussed. These books are available in classrooms for children to revisit and reflect on during the course of the year.

