

Ryarsh Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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 a sense of community spirit through shared ethos and values;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- 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 members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly, key-stage assembly or class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, with opportunities for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead, including our local Rector and the Family Trust. We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from community groups and the local police.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes, published termly.

3.5 At times through the school calendar, currently at Harvest Festival and Easter, the whole school attends an act of collective worship in our local Church.

3.6 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

3.7 Parents are invited to attend special assemblies, such as our Church services and end of term celebrations.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective 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.

4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Additional Guidance

5.2 Additional guidance is taken from

- Kent SACRE guidance, including Gathering Together: Policy and Practice for Collective Worship and REAct! A creative vision for religious education
- Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Programme (SEAL)

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Policy adopted by Governing Body	Spring term 2019
To be reviewed	Spring term 2022
Signed by Head Teacher	
Signed by Chair of Governors	