



Issued by the Governors of St Mary's CE School, Clymping

Collective Worship Policy

<i>Review Schedule</i>	<i>Every Two Years</i>
<i>Last Revised</i>	<i>March 2021</i>
<i>Next Approval Date</i>	<i>March 2023</i>

1. Aims and purpose

The foundation of the school is St. Mary's Church of England in the Parish of Clymping.

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 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 all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the 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', and as a Church School, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which may be a whole-school assembly, a class assembly or a Key stage assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of 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. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other Christian symbols that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff conduct assemblies, and local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them on a regular basis. This is in line with our policy of building on links with the local Church and the community.

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 well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 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 as part of our weekly Celebration assemblies to which parents are invited. These 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.

3.6 We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

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 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.

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

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of the Ethos Committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. This Committee liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the full governing body on religious education and collective worship.