



## Collective Worship Policy

### 1 Why conduct Collective Worship in Parkwood School

- It is a legal requirement and all schools must provide a daily collective act of worship.
- It has a key role in pupils' spiritual development, and contributes to their moral, cultural and social development.
- It will contribute to cohesion, stability and development of shared values in the school, when account is taken of the background of pupils.
- It contributes to the knowledge, awareness and understanding of each individual pupil.
- It provides a framework within which pupils may develop their own spiritual and moral values and commitment.

### 2 What is Collective Worship

Collective Worship in Parkwood School is an act that reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities, and is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. It is of a different character from worship amongst a group of people with beliefs in common. It is `collective worship` rather than `corporate worship`.

### 3 Aims of Collective Worship in Parkwood

- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To re-enforce positive attitudes.
- To give public expression to the values and concerns of the school community it serves.
- To celebrate the contributions of individuals or groups to the life of the school.
- To explore common universal values, such as courage, compassion, justice and forgiveness.
- To celebrate important religious festivals and traditions related to universal human experiences and values.
- To encourage respect for others.
- To encourage a sense of purpose and service that is greater than the individual.
- To develop knowledge, concepts and skills contributing to their spiritual and cultural development.
- To enable pupils to make connections between different aspects of the curriculum and different areas of their lives.
- To encourage respectful observation of acts of worship distinctive of faiths other than their own.

#### **4 Collective Worship in Parkwood features**

- A sense of reverence, devotion and adoration.
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- A sense of pattern, sequence and order.
- A sense of inter-dependence with the natural world and with each other.
- A sense of oneself and others as feeling and thinking persons.
- An awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, good and evil.
- An awareness of the nature of commitment and how this affects a person's attitude to life.
- An awareness of paradox and a sense of there being more to situations than meets the eye.
- A celebration of meaning, purpose and direction.
- An awareness of life's joys and sorrows.
- A sense of enquiry, exploration and open mindedness.

#### **5 Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place during whole school assembly and sometimes relate to the day-to-day running of the school, as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Collective Worship also conducted individual classes and is centred around the particular faiths being studied during the half term.

Pupils respond by taking part in the presentation, by reflecting quietly and by talking about their related experiences. Collective worship provides opportunities for times of silence when children reflect or mediate privately according to their own faith traditions.

#### **6 Individuals and their Faiths**

During Collective Worship we show respect for the value and aspirations, which all religious traditions have in common. We aim to support the personal, spiritual development of every pupil at the school and avoid giving offence in order to minimise the withdrawal, by parental consent, of pupils.

**Signed:**

**Date:**