



## POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Principles

Collective Worship at Arundel Court is a special time for sharing and being together. We recognise that although Collective Worship and Religious Education complement each other, they are separate activities within the school.

We interpret worship as a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth. For many people, worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However it can also more generally be defined as a “form of human activity when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us”.<sup>1</sup>

Collective Worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled. It is open to all staff and pupils, and no assumptions are made about the personal commitment of any individual to a particular belief.

Following the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act the majority of acts of worship are based on the broad principles and values of the Christian faith, whilst also recognising and reflecting other religious traditions and festivals that are represented in the school and wider community.

Collective Worship underpins all aspects of school life, and supports and enhances the ethos and values of the school.

### Aims

In our Collective Worship at Arundel Court we aim to:

- enable the children to explore and develop social and moral values
- encourage the exploration of spiritual issues, honouring the children’s own spirituality and increasing the awareness of thoughts and feelings, especially those of awe, wonder, mystery and praise
- develop the sense of belonging to a community with values to be shared and upheld
- provide an opportunity to worship God
- encourage participation and response in a shared exploration of what is of ultimate worth
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship
- develop awareness and understanding of other faiths, traditions and culture.

### Implementation

In Collective Worship at Arundel Court we create the setting for:

- A pause in the business of the school day for reflection and stillness
- developing a sense of rhythm and purpose in the life of the school by the marking and celebration of special occasions and achievements, with reflection on what is of worth

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<sup>1</sup> *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship* by E H Gorman

- both small and large gatherings, in which there are opportunities for presentation, performance and response
- facilitating the sense of belonging to a community and having responsibilities for one another

This can be achieved by:

- careful choice of music for entering and leaving the hall
- maintaining an atmosphere of calm and quiet before the start, and on the way to the hall
- providing a rich variety of methods of presentation, through story, drama, poetry, music, the use of artefacts and visual aids, focal points like candles, etc
- providing a carefully planned programme of themed assemblies, class assemblies, praise assemblies (KS2) and Golden Good Book assembly (KS1 and Foundation Stage)
- providing varied opportunities for response, through music and song, movement, discussion, remembering and the sharing of learning and experiences
- including times for reflection, stillness and thought
- inviting people to join in prayers, if they wish
- encouraging a sense of reverence, and a respect for other people's beliefs
- inviting local ministers or other members of the local community to contribute to, or lead assemblies on occasion after clear briefing on the schools' requirements.
- inviting parents to specific assemblies, and welcoming the presence of governors and other visitors
- recognising and celebrating the significant festivals of the Church. These always include Harvest, Christmas and Easter

### **Right of withdrawal from Collective Worship**

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending, and alternative arrangements for their supervision by a teacher or LSA will be made. This complies with statutory regulations (Education Acts 1988, and 1994). It is hoped that through discussion with the child's teacher and/or the Headteacher and given the open-ended nature of this policy, most concerns would be allayed, and parents' right to withdraw exercised only very rarely.

*Signed:* *Karen Stocks*

*Revd. C Hetherington*

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

*Date:* *15/07/16*

*Review Date:* **January 2018** (reviewed by D Weekes October 2016)