



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Archibald First School

#### 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 in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;

#### 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', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ, traditions of the Christian Church and moral values. 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 forms part of each afternoon assembly. Collective worship takes place in Key Stages. This allows for a more personalised 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 appropriately in prayer and hymns. We create a fitting atmosphere by using music.

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3.3 The head teacher and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but monthly, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

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 and other religions, as well as reflecting on personal and social issues using SEAL materials. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies half termly but they can be adapted to reflect current issues.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. 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. Archibald First School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

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

3.7 Parents are invited to a class assembly at least once a year

3.8 We welcome visitors to take assembly e.g. representatives of Gosforth churches

### 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 head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### 5 Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

**Approved: October 2017**

**Next Review: Summer 2020**