

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Statement

The daily act of collective worship at Parkside Community Foundation Primary School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship, we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

### Aims

- To provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood).
- To give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions) stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives.
- To offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs.
- To promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

### Collective Worship and the Law

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent or guardian 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly, or mainly, of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in the United Kingdom.

### Collective Worship and Parents

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child or children from the daily act of collective worship. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child or children are asked to make an appointment with the Head of School. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship, they are placed outside of the hall or room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

### Collective Worship and Staff

Teachers and teaching assistants are invited to attend collective worship with their class. Pupils and staff organise and lead the weekly class-based act of collective worship. Resources are provided to help with this. Non-teaching staff are invited to attend collective worship twice a year (at the beginning and end of each academic year). All staff are invited to attend celebration assemblies. However, if an individual teacher feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Head of School, since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.



# Parkside Community Foundation Primary School

Part of the Garlinge and Parkside Schools and Nurseries Federation



Policy adopted by Governing Body on 18/03/2025

To be reviewed on March 2028

Signed by Executive Headteacher J. Williams

Signed by Chair of Governors M. Gahan.