

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Assemblies bring the whole school together for a collective act of worship and/or contemplation, following the Unitarian tradition of our founders. All pupils attend Assembly, and staff are expected to do so. Channing rejoices in a multi-faith community, and no one is required to take an active part in anything that she feels unable to join in. However, Assembly provides an opportunity to extend that knowledge and understanding of religious thought that underpins tolerance and sympathy.

We hope Assembly gives each girl a short period of time each day which is different from the general business of school. For a few minutes she can stop running, mentally as well as physically, and reflect in the company of others on ideas outside the bustle of everyday life. A simple routine means that this can be achieved on a regular basis although the time is indeed short: most assemblies consist of a hymn, a reading, and a prayer or meditation, in varying order.

Hymns are regularly sung, and are selected for their universal message. Prayers may come from any religious background. Silent prayer is sometimes used. We celebrate Christmas and Easter and other Christian festivals with appropriate words and music, and whenever possible we try to note non Christian festivals and holy days, such as Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Diwali, inviting girls to present their particular faiths to the school community.

At Fairseat parents are invited to a special performance of their daughter's class assembly at least twice a year.

### **Implementation**

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.

The main consideration is of course that an assembly is appropriate, properly prepared and presented.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The Headmistress, Head of Fairseat and Head of RE will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

(July 2011)