

Policy:	Collective Worship
Responsibility:	Full GB
Headteacher's recommendation to the Governing Body:	<i>This is a bespoke policy based on that currently used by Ysgol Y Parchedig Thomas Ellis. The Headteacher recommends adopting this policy.</i>
Adopted:	02/03/17
Review:	Every three years, as dated below:

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

Pupils attending our school, regardless of age, gender, colour, creed, ability shall take part in a daily act of collective worship which brings together the whole Christian ethos of our school, its atmosphere, the quality of relationships, its values and attitudes and reinforces its richness. This document provides a statement of the schools aims with regard to Collective Worship. It is a document consistent with the requirements of the Education Reform Act. At our school, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Aims

We aim to bring pupils together to participate in the experiences of the immediate and wider community:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- reflect on values that are of a Christian nature;
- share together emotions such as love, loyalty, trust, forgiveness, patience, responsibility, confidence, commitment and caring happiness, helpfulness, tolerance, joy, delight, valuing one's self and to celebrate in the excitement and beauty of life and living;
- to provide for moments of awe and wonder, for truth and for facing the harsher realities of life;
- give opportunity to express humility, weariness, worry or admission of a need;
- allow positive reflection on success and failure in an open, honest and sensitive climate;
- to develop pupil awareness and understanding of the cultural traditions of Wales and other world cultures;
- encourage expressions of determination to do ones best;
- create an atmosphere in which one has the opportunity for silent reflection, repose, inner response and active participation;
- to develop a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common Christian ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to promote inclusiveness.

Collective Worship at our school is carefully planned with meaningful arrangements. An altar provides a focus point to our services. We make positive use of relevant displays and colours that change to coincide with the church calendar. Artefacts are used to promote interest and understanding.

We use poetry, music and knowledge and understanding of the world to help develop a sense of beauty and awe and wonder of the world. We make effective use of artefacts including, candles, shells, pebbles, sand, stones, etc. We encourage children to develop their own ideas and consider their own values and beliefs. The act of Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis with all children. A variety of music is played on entering and leaving the hall to help create atmosphere conducive to worship and reflection. We encourage other Ministers, Preachers and speakers to involve themselves in our Collective Worship. At regular intervals the whole school meets for an open act of Collective Worship where parents and members of the wider community are invited to attend.

Our time for Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We provide time for pupils to reflect on Bible stories and explore their personal feelings and experiences through prayers and poetry.

Day	Type of Worship	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher and/or Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Class services - Collective Worship Plan	Teachers
Wednesday	Years 1-6 - Hymn practice	Teachers
Thursday	Whole School - Church	Clergy of St Cybi's Church
Friday	Whole School - Celebrating Achievement	Headteacher and teachers

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The assembly/worship should last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. Candles on the altar table are lit with the words, "Jesus, Light of the World" and the worship begins in prayer, sometimes with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on Tuesdays. These smaller-scale services take place in the classrooms, but are just as important as our whole-school services.

Wednesday's hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

The Clergy assembly on Thursday will follow the Church Calendar and will include a variety of materials. This takes place after the children have answered the responses, sung the hymn and the candles have been lit.

The Gold Book assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. The assembly takes place on Friday afternoon before children leave for the weekend. Normally, teachers choose one member of their class to receive a special mention and a place in the Golden Book / Display in hall. This takes place after the candles have been lit. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candles are blown out. Other successes are recognised such as good attendance, good homework and the week's most successful 'house' is announced. The headteacher is assisted by the four captains of the 'houses'. The assembly closes with the singing of the national anthem.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. These prayers are displayed in the Hall. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by all in class. Every class say a prayer at the end of the school day. The school has several reflection or prayer areas, with themes that change on a regular basis. These are areas that are accessible to the children and that they can choose to visit. For example, children may be encouraged to write short prayers or messages of hope and clip them onto a prayer tree. Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Parents reserve the right to withdraw their children from collective worship sessions, and should be done by indicating their preferences in writing to the headteacher. In such cases, children will be expected to read quietly under the supervision of a member of support staff.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship (filled in by the Religious Education coordinator). Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead whole-school acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, our school ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of the Christian place of Worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Cybi's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the pupils attending / contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter Services.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from Kathie Meyer's education plan along with the Church in Wales, Religious education Syllabus for Primary Schools for appropriate materials.