



Penrhyn CiW School

Collective Worship Policy

'Together Stronger Learning with Confidence'

Updated	
Reviewed	
Signed:	
	Chair of the Governors Head Teacher





Penrhyn CiW School

Collective Worship Policy

In Penrhyn CiW School our aim is to:

Provide an inclusive and equitable curriculum that is bespoke to our children. We will use eight guiding principles to do this.

- Provide a curriculum that is relevant and developmentally appropriate. That is responsive to learner's capacity and need and is evolving with the pupils. (Article 12 – the right to be listened to and taken seriously.)
- Take a holistic approach to learning. (Article 17 – I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe.)
- Ensure that learners learn that rights and gender-equity links to relationships, freedom, equity, dignity, well-being and safety. (Article 1 – Everyone under 18 has these rights.)
- Provide all students with authentic, engaging learning opportunities on strengths and accelerating learning for all with all stakeholder's involvement. (Article 3 – adults must do what is best for me.)
- All practitioners to ensure we offer equitable access and opportunity for all, creating a transformative approach to 'More-able and talented'. (Article 6 – I should be supported to live and grow.)
- Provide creative approaches that create ethical, safe and engaging spaces for learners to feel, think, question, embody and share their thoughts. (Article 17 – I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe.)
- We will be inclusive to ensure all learners see themselves and each other in what they learn. (Article 12 – the right to be listen to and take seriously.)
- We will provide a high quality education, providing access and opportunity to high expectations, critical thinking, flourishing talent, and a sense of belonging bound in strong relationships. Work with partnership with specialist services and expertise. (Article 29 – I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect of other's rights and the environment.)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - A STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Education Reform Act of 1988 requires all schools in Wales to devise their own collective worship policy in line with national and county guidelines and to outline the way in which the school intends to present collective worship to its pupils. It is a statutory requirement of the Act and one which demands a policy statement in the way all subjects of the National Curriculum do and in fact should be viewed as an integral part of our broadly based curriculum. The following is a brief outline of the main legislative requirements that apply to our school and it is with these in mind that our policy statement is devised.

1. *Collective* worship, together with RVE., is seen as part of the new CFW.
2. The main *organisational* requirements are that:
 - a) collective worship must be **daily for all registered pupils**;
 - b) it can be at any **time of the school day**;
 - c) it can be in **whatever grouping the school wishes**;
 - d) as a rule, it must **take place on the school premises**. Any acts of collective worship off the school premises must be in *addition* to the statutory daily act of collective worship. However, St Davids Church is across the road from Penrhyn school therefore the children and other members of the community take part in collective worship.
3. The clauses relating to style and content state that:
 - a) the *majority* of acts of collective worship each term should be **“wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”** -that is reflecting the **“broad traditions of Christian belief”** - but they should be non-denominational;
 - b) regard must be taken of the pupils’ **ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds**;
 - c) if a school believes that “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” is inappropriate, it **can apply to its local SACRE to have that clause lifted or modified for the whole school or for a class or description of pupils within the school**. In making such a request to the SACRE, the headteacher must consult with the governors who might also choose to seek the views of parents.
4. Parents retain the right to **withdraw** their children. Teachers’ rights are also safeguarded.
5. It is the duty of the headteacher -after consulting with the governing body - to see that these arrangements are carried out.

These requirements, in every aspect are prescriptive and strengthened by their position in terms of the law and so must be adhered to strictly. Our school also has a moral responsibility to its pupils to engage children daily in a thoughtful act of collective worship whilst respecting the integrity of all those who participate. With this in mind, our policy must be clear, reflecting

the aims and objectives of collective worship, the character of our school and the ways in which these can best be put into practice.

In response to this, the Local Education Authority suggests three guiding principles upon which any policy on collective worship should be founded. These have implications for both the content and the style of delivery to the children. These are:

1. that collective worship should be **INCLUSIVE**;
2. that collective worship should be **SPIRITUAL**;
3. that collective worship should be **EDUCATIONAL**.

Aims and Objectives

1. Collective worship should aim to promote the spiritual development of each pupil in a sensitive and careful manner.
2. To enrich pupils' experiences and to enable them to be tolerant of other people's viewpoints, beliefs and customs.
3. An opportunity to experience worship or to be brought to the threshold of worship.
4. To consider that worship is relevant and meaningful.
5. To create an atmosphere appropriate for silent contemplation and to respond personally and positively.
6. To appreciate the use of symbols and language in worship.
7. To give pupils an opportunity to investigate their own religious viewpoints in relation to others by offering them new experiences.
8. To develop a sense of values within the school, and the local community and the world at large.

Organisation of Collective Worship

All the pupils are involved in collective worship daily.

For the children participating together in collective worship, being part of a school community is fundamental to the child's understanding of worship and the development of a sense of values within the school, and children's understanding of their rights in line with the UNCRC. These are important occasions and ones when parents and members of the local community may be involved. Collective Worship takes place daily see class timetables.

Planning and Content

The content of the collective worship is based on the development of themes or events linked to the Church calendar, and also to fortnightly Values. We are a Values school. Themes are based on the curriculum planning and encompass both Christianity and the other major religions represented in Wales. Themes may also reflect the celebration of those festivals throughout the year which are important to individual children and to the development of a community ethos within the school.

At times throughout the school year the collective worship will be presented by the children themselves reflecting a theme of their choice, usually connected with the work they are undertaking in the classroom linked to the new CFW. This is when parents are invited to share in Collective Worship. It may also be connected with a special time of the year - Harvest Festival, Christmas and St. David's Day - these services are supported by our local clergy and where possible in St Davids Church, Hundleton. A local minister takes collective worship in our school usually once a week.

Organisation of Collective Worship

The daily format of collective worship can vary but might be based on the following structure:-

- Music
- Responses and song
- Main content (story, reading, talk, role play, reflection time)
- Prayers

Announcements and Birthdays may follow as part of the assembly but not as collective worship. Birthdays will be part of a Friday celebration assembly.

Planning, Recording, Evaluating

It is important that acts of collective worship are planned in line with all other aspects and subjects of the curriculum to ensure:

- A balance in content and approach
- Relevance to the pupils' interests and needs
- An appropriateness to their aptitudes and abilities

Role of Governing Body

Governing Bodies are accountable in terms of ensuring that local needs are met in relation to the provision of Collective Worship.

Policy Review

The Policy statement will be reviewed in line with the programme of self-evaluation for the school.

APPENDIX A

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- i) Collective worship should be INCLUSIVE.**
- ii) Collective worship should be SPIRITUAL.**
- iii) Collective worship should be EDUCATIONAL.**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE

Implications (positively expressed):

- * Collective worship should be pupil-centred and related to pupils' own experiences.
- * Collective worship should acknowledge diversity and affirm each pupil's (and teacher's) own life-stance, whether it be religious or not.
- * Collective worship should involve pupils as active participants where possible.
- * Collective worship should be shaped to the particular needs of pupils in individual schools.
Commitment to this principle should encourage diversity of practice.
- * Collective worship should foster a sense of community within each school: a sense of shared values, identity, perception, outlook and purpose.

Implications (negatively expressed):

- * Collective worship should not simply be watered-down versions of worship in adult faith communities. (This is not to say that schools should not draw upon the wide variety of worship practices within faith communities to enrich their own collective worship.)
- * Pupils (and teachers) should not simply mouth faith statements which they do not understand or to which they do not themselves adhere.
- * Pupils (and teachers) should not be placed in positions where they are made to feel uneasy, or less than honest, or where their personal integrity is not respected.
- * If collective worship is inclusive there should be no need for the right of withdrawal to be exercised.

Implications (Positively Expressed):

- * Collective worship should provide a breathing space in the busy whirl of school activity: a time to gather, to be still and to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity: a time to refresh the spirit.
- * Collective worship should be a 'special' time with a distinctively spiritual atmosphere, one that is conducive to worship. The use of appropriate background music will help to create such an ambience, and the setting for collective worship should be made as attractive as possible. Often it will help if there is a visual focus for those present.
- * The pupils attending collective worship should feel calm and relaxed. Above all, they should be comfortable. Consideration should also be given to the manner in which pupils enter and leave.
- * Collective worship should 'develop the spirit' through a variety of words, music and images, and should sensitise children to the spiritual dimension of life. Collective worship should allow pupils to reflect upon spiritual writings, music and works of art. The world's great religions are obvious repositories of profound spiritual insights, and material derived from the Christian traditions will help to ensure the Christian character of most of the worship.
- * Collective worship should provide opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of spiritual activities, such as worship, singing, dancing, drama. Sharing food and drink, prayer, quiet contemplation and meditation. These activities should always be undertaken with care and sensitivity, and it is a legal requirement that they should be appropriate to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background. It is also mandatory that such activities, when constituting worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- * Collective worship should provide opportunities and space for individual reflection and a variety of individual responses, including worship. Often this will be facilitated by the use of a purposeful silence.
- * Collective worship must always provide an opportunity for pupils to participate.
- * Collective worship should be separated from day to day school announcements.

Implications (negatively expressed):

- * Anything that may disturb the spiritual atmosphere engendered in collective worship, such as announcements, reprimands or the clatter from kitchens, would be unacceptable.
- * Collective worship should not simply consist of stories with a moral!

School Collective Worship

- * Collective worship should be governed by the same educational criteria that apply to any other educational activity. Collective worship should be learning experiences of real quality, related to the pupils' own experiences. They should be properly prepared, executed and evaluated. Time should be found to enable proper planning to take place and collective worship should be appropriately resourced.
- * Collective worship should be explicitly related to other curricular activity. Collective worship will naturally complement some of the work done in R.E. , providing insight into the nature and practice of worship.
- * Collective worship should provide schools with opportunities to reflect on their own educational purpose and to celebrate a range of educational achievements (not simply academic and sporting success!).
- * The aims of collective worship should be educational and consistent with the educational aims and objectives of the school. Indeed, acts of worship provide a useful means of realising many of the educational aims of the school.

Implications (negatively expressed):

- * There is no place in collective worship for evangelism and indoctrination, both of which seek to bring pupils to a particular conviction and to discourage questioning. These are anti- educational.

Cycle of Values and Christian festivals and seasons.

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
Christian festival/Season	Harvest	Remembrance Advent Christmas	Lent	St David's Day Mothering Sunday Easter	Ascension	Pentecost

**POSSIBLE THEMES FOR COLLECTIVE
WORSHIP BASED ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
RESOURCES AVAILABLE – FOUNDATION
PHASE & KS2**

Ambition	Greed	Saying "Thank You"
Beauty	Growth	Seasons
Beginnings and Endings	Happiness is ...	Self Discipline
Being Upset	Happy Days	Senses
Belonging	Harvest	Sharing
Birth	Health and Ill-health	Sharing a Secret
Books	Helping Hands	Silence and Stillness
Special Books	Helping Others	Sounds I have Heard
Bridges	Hobbies	Success and Failure
The Bully	Homes	Talents
Care	Honesty	Thanksgiving
Choosing Friends	Human Rights	Time
Circles	Jealousy	Toys
Clothes	Journeys	Values
Colours	Leisure	War and Peace
Communication	Light and Dark	Water
Community	Loneliness	What a Mess!
Conflict	Loss	What about you?
Conservation	Love	Winning and Losing
Coping with Crisis	Money and Wealth	World around us
Courage	Myself	Wonder and Awe
Courtesy	My Favourite Music	Working Together
Creation	Names	
Death	Neighbours	
Fairplay	One World	
Faith	Ourselves	
Family Life	Patience	
Famine	People Who Help us	
Favourite Things	Perseverance	
Fear	Pollution	
Festivals	Possessions	
Fire	Prayer	
Food	Precious Things	
Forgiveness	Promises	
Freedom	Rules	
Friendship		
Fun		
Gifts		
Giving		