

Ysgol Bryn Castell



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Review Date: March 2029

Next review due: Every 3 years (or when a legal change / update is required)

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Introduction

Collective worship is an important part of daily school life as it gives pupils and staff the opportunity to come together as a community. We recognise that collective worship provides an important opportunity for our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Parents and visitors may also be invited to attend on some occasions. The act of daily collective worship is often referred to in school as 'assembly' and whilst there is a clear distinction as to the requirements of collective worship, the term assembly may also be used in this policy for ease.

Aims

- To help pupils develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness by means of acts of collective worship, which are broadly Christian in character.
- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship, so that those with a religious faith may have their experiences broadened and so that those without faith may reflect on the experiences offered, enhancing their own personal development, including the potential for leaders of other faiths to lead / contribute to acts of worship.
- To explore common issues, concerns and interests, discerning value and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- To develop a sense of community within the school, and of being part of a wider community.
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
- To celebrate difference and diversity across the world.
- To heighten aesthetic awareness and enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feeling and belief.

Objectives

- To provide a daily opportunity for prayer and/or reflection, which is included as part of the whole school planning process.
- To help pupils to recognise and appreciate the heritage of Christian worship.
- To foster in pupils an understanding of the diversity of beliefs, attitudes, cultures and traditions within the world.
- To encourage mutual tolerance and understanding between faiths.
- To develop in pupils a sense of right and wrong, and an understanding of the importance of a shared moral code, in order to ensure that our school is a caring social environment.
- To provide the opportunity to engage in acts of collective worship (singing hymns, saying prayers, undertaking reading from religious texts, etc.)
- To liaise with local churches and other similar organisations, in order to visit local chapels and churches for worship, and also to invite members of the various church communities to attend 'assemblies' in school.
- To explore the spiritual and cultural heritage of Wales, through Welsh songs and stories of Welsh religious characters

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship

- All pupils (5-18) are required to take part in an act of collective worship on each school day.
- Collective worship may be held at any time during the school day.
- Separate acts of collective worship may be arranged for different age or school groupings.
- Collective worship must take place on school premises (community schools)
- Most acts of collective worship taking place in any one term in a community school must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. That is, the worship must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any one Christian denomination.
- Collective worship must be appropriate having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils.

- Where worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate, the headteacher and governing body may apply to the local WASACRE (Welsh Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religion, Values and Ethics / Religious Education) for permission to arrange worship for all or some of the pupils which is not wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Parents/Carers retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- Teachers cannot be compelled to lead collective worship, but it is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that it takes place.

The right of withdrawal

At Ysgol Bryn Castell we seek to be a fully inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following a discussion between the parents/carers and Headteacher followed by the parents/carers' written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from acts of collective worship. However, no specific additional work will be set for this time. Activities will be selected appropriate to the age and ability of the pupil involved.

All staff, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship.

Organisation

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship'. We do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation providing as many opportunities for daily acts of worship as is practically possible.

The guidance issued in circular 10/94 states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

The Estyn guidance (09/2017) describes collective worship as follows:

"An act of collective worship is distinct from an assembly. Although they often take place during the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship in schools can take a number of forms. Pupils may take some or all of the lead.

Some of the appropriate components of collective worship are outlined in the box below, but this should not be regarded as an exhaustive list. An act of collective worship may incorporate one or more of these components.

- Reflection – pupils may be encouraged to listen to, watch or reflect on an appropriate stimulus, such as a reading from the Bible or other religious writing, a drama sketch, a dance, a video, a song, a piece of music, an artefact, a poem, a story, a news article, a photograph, a picture, a prayer, a question, a ritual or a presentation or a talk from a member of staff or visiting speaker.
- Prayer – pupils may be encouraged to say a prayer aloud together or to pray individually in silence.
- Song – pupils may be encouraged to sing a hymn or other worship song together.
- Reading – pupils may be encouraged to read an extract from the Bible or other religious writing, or a 'thought for the day'.

Pupils may discuss a stimulus during collective worship, but discussion on its own must not be considered as worship. Equally, collective worship does not have to include the opportunity for discussion."

Collective worship takes place daily in classrooms supported by class teams or in the hall in larger groups. Acts of collective worship take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Organisation

The collective worship provision in each department is chosen to provide meaningful and relevant contexts, which respond to local needs, through which the legal requirements for worship can be fully addressed, whilst also providing relevant themes and discussion for pupils and staff with other religious or humanist / atheist views.

Throughout the year, collective worship may also reflect the variety and diversity of faiths and cultures in Wales, and will celebrate festivals and religious events (eg. Diwali, Hanukah, Chinese New Year, Dydd Dewi Sant, Shrove Tuesday).

The organisation of collective worship will alter from time to time, in order to accommodate other timetabled events in school, such as PPA time, visitors etc. The current 'normal' arrangements are given in the appendix following this policy.

Supervision

Collective worship in the hall

Pupils will require consistent levels of supervision in-line with usual classroom staffing levels during collective worship in the hall, and are likely to require higher levels of supervision during transitions to and from the hall for acts of communal collective worship.

There may be limited occasions when the presence of all staff will not be required during collective worship in the hall. Staff will be notified in advance if this is the case. Staff who are not required to attend will be engaged in other activities such as preparation, planning, assessment.

Collective worship in the classroom

Where collective worship takes place within the classroom, pupils will be supported by usual classroom staffing levels, with support from specialist staff outside the classroom as required.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Our Collective worship is planned for over the course of the year to ensure breadth, balance and relevance. These plans are reviewed and revised as needs demand.

This policy is due to be reviewed at the time stated, unless circumstances determine that this policy needs to be reviewed at an earlier time.

Appendix 1:



Ysgol Bryn Castell

Collective Worship

	Time	Group	Lead	Proxy
Monday	09:30	Newcastle (P16)	SPe	SDa
	Collective act of worship in class			
Tuesday	10:00	Ogmore (KS2)	VCa	NSa
	09:45	Candleston (KS3)	VCa	CFi/PPS
	Collective act of worship in class			
Wednesday	09:15	Pilot Group from after Feb half term (KS2; ASD; P16; school parliament)	HRI	SJe
	Collective act of worship in class			
Thursday	Collective act of worship in class			
Friday	09:00	Dunraven (KS4)	SPe	RDu/HGi
	14:15	Coity (ASD)	SDa	RFr
	Collective act of worship in class			