

Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan



Collective Worship Policy

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Signatures

| | Name | Signature |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Chair of Governors: | Ms. J Williams | <i>J. Williams</i> |
| Headteacher: | Ms S. Court | <i>S. Court</i> |

Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our 'BEACON' vision, we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships. We provide opportunities for all to engage with the needs of all learners, whatever their faith or belief background. Collective Worship promotes spiritual development, contributes to personal development, benefits the school community and links the wider community and enhances awareness of global citizenship. Collective worship is distinct from and is no substitute for the teaching of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in the classroom.

At Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, our collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a faith group. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship, (for example festivals, Holy days etc). Acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

The Legal Context

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Welsh Office Circular 10/94 set out the legal requirements for collective worship in schools, ensuring that:

- All learners should take part in an act of collective worship every day.
- Such acts of collective worship may be as a whole school together, or in other groups as the school may decide (except religious groups).
- Arrangements for acts of collective worship shall be made by the headteacher, after consultation with the governing body.
- All acts of collective worship shall be on the school premises.
- The majority of acts of collective worship, in any school term as a whole, shall be, "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" and which "reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination".
- Parents/ Carers have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. Arrangements are made for those children who are withdrawn from collective worship.
- Staff equally have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Mount Street Infant Campus

| | Participants | Staff |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Tuesday | In class | Staff |
| Wednesday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Thursday | In class | Staff |
| Friday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |

Mount Street Junior Campus

| | Participants | Staff |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Tuesday | In class | Staff |
| Wednesday | In class | Staff |
| Thursday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Friday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |

Cradoc Campus

| | Participants | Staff |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Tuesday | In Class | Staff |
| Wednesday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |
| Thursday | In Class | Staff |
| Friday | Whole-School assembly | Headteacher/ Senior Leaders / Staff |

In class acts of collective worship, teachers will follow an agreed timetable.

The Aims of Collective Worship

In Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, Collective Worship is expected to:

- Foster a sense of community and provide the opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community.
- Enrich the lives of all present by exploring, extending, sharing and deepening individual experiences and beliefs.
- Enable the sharing of common emotions (such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear, forgiveness, reverence).
- Enables learners to experience ways in which people express themselves according to their beliefs and faith.
- Provide moments of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Supports the development of self-worth and values of others.
- Allow for the expressing of humility, weariness, worry, and sorrow, and to encourage the development of sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others.
- Provide stimulus and opportunity for silent reflection, inner response, and active participation.
- Help children to understand the language and nature of worship, and to explore their own beliefs, in relation to those of others.
- Contribute towards spiritual and moral development.

Planning

Acts of Worship are planned on a weekly basis to follow a theme which promotes spiritual, cultural and moral development. They include examples from various religious cultures. These themes are linked to:

- Religious events
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school
- Learning being undertaken

and are linked to the Calendar of Religious Festivals for the year.

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities.

The themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

Contents

- To be delivered on a daily basis taking into account the age, background and aptitude of the learners involved
- Songs and hymns are sung regularly and are appropriate to the theme or particular occasion.
- Songs are sung in both English and Cymraeg.
- Stories, readings or sayings from the Bible are used in every act of worship, and such material is in addition to work in Religion, Ethics and Values, which may also draw upon such passages.
- There may be times when reference is made to the festivals and/or beliefs and practices of other religions other than Christianity, but in accordance with statutory requirements these would form a minority of acts of worship in any one term or year.
- Teachers and learners leading acts of collective worship say prayers, and children are invited to participate in The Lord's Prayer.
- In order to create an appropriate atmosphere, music or some visual focus is provided during the entry into the hall. Teachers are also encouraged to have a clear indication of a special time or focus/ reflections in class acts of worship.
- Visitors from churches and chapels, and possibly other religious communities are invited to lead acts of collective worship, as are members and representatives of the community. In all cases, visitors will be shown this policy statement and informed of the non-denominational and collective rather than corporate, nature of the event.
- The school recognises the distinction between 'assembly' and 'collective worship', where these are held at the same time, a clear demarcation is made between one and the other. On occasions, a special 'assembly' will be held where there are serious or disciplinary matters that would detract from or tend to spoil the atmosphere of the collective worship.
- In accordance with the legal requirements, parents who may wish to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship are asked to discuss their concerns, and the practical implications of withdrawal, with the headteacher.
- Any teacher, who wishes to withdraw from the supervising or leading of acts of collective worship, should discuss the matter fully with the headteacher.
- The withdrawal of children from collective worship for extra reading or number work is positively discouraged; it is however, agreed, that from time-to-time individual teachers may not be present in the hall for collective worship when particular preparations are needing to be completed.