



*Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg
Bro Myrddin*

Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed by the Governing Body: 30 March 2017

Signature of Chairperson: _____

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Collective Worship Policy

As a school, we strongly believe that collective worship is an important part of our school life. Every week a whole school assembly is held in the hall on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. (See Morning Assembly Arrangements).

Every other Wednesday is an opportunity for the houses to gather and arrange their activities. Also, every other Wednesday is an opportunity for us to hold a junior and senior assembly.

Every fortnight the Heads of Year are given an opportunity to hold an assembly with the year's pupils in the hall or the canteen. This gives them the opportunity to meet with the year and discuss relevant matters.

On occasions when assemblies are not held, it is expected that the classes arrange a short class assembly as a Minute to Think using the resources prepared by the Minute to Think Working Group. A copy of the resources is distributed to every Form Tutor but these are also available on the Z drive in the school.

The Purpose of Holding Collective Worship

The main purpose of Collective Worship in the school life is to give the school a chance to gather giving pupils the chance to be part of a worship that is relevant to them. There are other various reasons for holding Collective Worship but it is not expected for every Collective Worship to include all elements. It is hoped, however that Collective Worship for a period of time will answer all these reasons for holding them. Collective Worship in a Whole School or Year or House assembly is an opportunity to do the following:

- Set the appropriate atmosphere for the school day
- For a pupil to receive an aesthetic experience, where he has an appropriate opportunity to respond emotionally/spiritually to things and ideas
- Develop the pupil's intelligence, both mentally and informatively
- Try to answer some of the questions a pupil may be looking for answers to
- Nurture connections with the community outside the school e.g. by inviting contributions from the outside
- Gain new experiences and try responding to them in a positive way
- Develop pupil's public skills by contributing to the assembly in various ways e.g. reading, singing, taking part in lead parts
- Contributing to the cross-curricular themes schools are expected to nurture and promote.

Aims and Objectives

In our school assemblies we aim to achieve:

- To promote every pupil's spiritual development in a sensitive and careful way.
- To enrich pupils' experiences and teach them to be tolerant of the religious perspectives and practices of others.
- To give an opportunity to experience worship or come towards.
- To consider worship relevantly and mean fully.
- To create an atmosphere to meditate quietly, and **respond inner and positively**.
- To value the use of symbols and language in worship.

- To give pupils the opportunity to research their own religious viewpoints in relation to others by offering them new experiences.
- To try to kindle personal response to vital questions and deepen their spiritual awareness.
- To promote personal research for the Truth and meaning of life.
To develop the sense of values within the school, the local community and worldwide.

Contribution of Collective Worship Service to the spiritual and moral education

A school has a duty to contribute to the Spiritual and Moral Education of all children in a wider meaning.

Spiritual and moral education are not restricted to any specific religious belief or to a specific religious denomination but the majority of the Collective Worship are Christian based and are moral / spiritual their emphasis.

Collective Worship is an essential part of school life and it contributes towards realising the school aims and objectives.

Spiritual education is primarily related to relationships with others, and to believers, with God. It also relates to seeking the meaning and purpose of life and the values for life. Here are a few aspects on spiritual development that Collective Worship helps to develop;

- Beliefs
- Information about the self, such as thoughts, feelings, emotions
- The sense of having an inspiration of the natural world, mystery and people achievement

Moral education is very difficult in the same means and includes making decisions based on what is true or untrue. Some of the school's principles for moral education which can be transferred through the medium of Collective Worship are:

- Telling the truth
- Keeping to one's word
- Respect the rights and property of others
- Behave in a considerate way towards others
- Help the less fortunate
- The importance of showing self-discipline

In the same means the assemblies should emphasise the renunciation from the following;

- Bullying
- Deceiving
- Cruelty
- Behaving irresponsibly
- Dis-honesty.

Although the school culture and curriculum subjects are a means to promote aspects on Spiritual and Moral Education, Collective Worship is a great opportunity to demonstrate and to implement school values, those being in the presence of all children.

The Statutory Requirements

The statutory requirements in the Collective Worship context is based on the Education Act 1988 and the Welsh Office Newsletter 10/94. Here are the relevant parts:

- Schools must provide collective worship every day for all registered pupils. Although year 12 and 13 pupils must not be part of the assembly, based on the Education and Inspections 2006 measure, Ysgol Bro Myrddin's policy states that they are expected to join in the mediation.
- The majority of every term collective worship activities should be Christian or generally Christian their nature. This means that they should reflect the general traditions of Christian belief without being **characteristically** of any specific Christian denomination.
- Collective worship can occur at any time during the school day.
- A parent can present an application to excuse their child from collective worship. Pupils who are excused must be supervised by the school. The school prospectus should refer to parental rights to present an application to excuse their child.
- Teachers have the right not to take part in collective worship.

These quotations mean the school worship is not expected to be similar to a worship in a chapel or church but these services are expected to reflect the beliefs shared by Christians of every denomination.