

Ysgol Y Faenol

Policy for Collective Worship

There is a legal requirement for schools to conduct a 'daily act of collective worship' - (The 1988 Education Act and subsequent Acts).

Ysgol Y Faenol's school community includes children from a variety of cultures and faiths, and non-faith backgrounds. Thus, Acts of Collective Worship at Ysgol Y Faenol are planned to be sensitive to the collective character of our school and to be inclusive.

Therefore,

- The term "collective" when used in relation to worship refers to the gathering together of a school group or groups for worship; it does not in any way suggest an act of worship which involves a group meeting to subscribe to any particular faith or denomination of a faith.
- Collective worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils. Collective Worship should cater for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

Worship of a Broadly Christian Character

The legal requirement for collective worship is that it is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

In order to achieve a daily act of worship which meets legal requirements as well as educational principles, at Ysgol Y Faenol we concentrate on those characteristics which are shared by many other faiths as well as those which are specific to Christianity.

These include:

- Valuing individuals
- Valuing relationships
- The stewardship of the earth's resources (ecology, pollution)
- Harmony
- Peace
- Justice
- Prejudice

Our school's acts of collective worship aim to be purposeful collective spiritual experiences which support the ethos of the school.

School acts of worship, therefore, aim to be a time of honouring excellence and exploring and sharing things of value and worth. During acts of worship pupils should be given an opportunity to worship inwardly if they wish to do so. This may be achieved through a moment or two of reflective silence during each act of collective worship.

This will therefore allow a meaningful experience for all pupils whilst giving time for individuals to worship in the spiritual sense if they so wish.

Our Aims and Objectives

Our school collective worship aims to reflect and nurture the ethos of our school by developing the feeling of belonging to a community, essential for personal development.

In order for the act of worship to contribute to the spiritual development of pupils, our aims are:

- To celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose in our school and in the wider community.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them.
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To celebrate similarities, differences and diversity.
- To give time for silent reflection
- To illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development (i.e. silent contemplation, singing, prayer etc.)

Organisation

We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place. These consist of:

All About Me
Relationships
Our World
Togetherness
Achievement

Some assemblies may, however, respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part. Our assemblies may reflect and refer to the traditions and calendar of the Christian Church **and** the religious traditions and calendars of all other faiths that are represented in the school and the wider community. Our assemblies may also reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, such as the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning.

Teachers conduct/participate in at least one assembly per week. Each teacher selects material in accordance with the theme.

Collective Worship is generally held either in the school hall or in the classrooms.

Pupils should be able to recognise that Collective Worship is a special time in the school day. Where Collective Worship takes place within the context of a school assembly,

pupils need to be clear about when the act of collective worship begins and ends. Some strategies to achieve this may include:

- Use of a symbol to introduce and conclude the act of collective worship, e.g. lighting a candle, showing a special object, revealing or setting up a focal point.
- A period of silence prior to and/or following the act of collective worship.
- A short piece of music to separate the act of collective worship from other school business.

Content/Delivery

Worship may draw upon literature, music, drama, art and other sources of inspiration. It can provide a focus for thought, inspiration and reflection for pupils (and staff) whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none.

Collective Worship activities may consist of:

- Story, poetry, personal experiences, anecdotes, discussions, factual accounts, thoughts of the day, quotations, etc.
- Prayer - can be considered to be a good way of focusing thoughts and feelings. Pupils **should not** be required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe. In order to be sensitive when using prayers from faith traditions, forms of introductions should be used e.g.:
"And now, in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well-known prayer..."
Pupils will therefore be given an introduction to the notion of prayer traditions whilst not being required to respond.
- *Song* - a means of creating atmosphere which unifies and uplifts. Pupils may be introduced to hymns and songs in a variety of ways, for example by using participating in singing activities, listening to recordings of choirs, listening to a groups perform etc.
- Music – a method of setting an atmosphere and supporting the theme of the worship. In addition it can assist pupils' personal reflection. By using both recorded and live contributions, the whole experience is enriched.
- Visual stimuli
- Broadcasts
- Silence/Reflection - Use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from Acts of Collective Worship at all maintained schools, including faith schools. At Ysgol Y Faenol the right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place.

The parental right to withdraw a child should be freely exercisable and the school must give effect to any such request.

Before exercising the right of withdrawal it is recommended that parents discuss the matter with the Head Teacher in order to establish:

- The school's policy concerning Collective Worship.
- The elements of worship from the parent wishes to withdraw the child.
- The practical implications of withdrawal

Requests for withdrawals should be made in writing

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Grouping:</u> Whole School	<u>Grouping:</u> Whole School	<u>Grouping:</u> Whole School	<u>Grouping:</u> Whole School	<u>Grouping:</u> Whole School
<u>Theme:</u> ALL ABOUT ME	<u>Theme:</u> RELATIONSHIPS	<u>Theme:</u> OUR WORLD	<u>Theme:</u> TOGETHERNESS	<u>Theme:</u> ACHIEVMENT
<u>Areas of Focus:</u> Personal Qualities Personal Skills Self Confidence Emotions Trust Worries Ambitions Health/Wellbeing	<u>Areas of Focus:</u> Family Friendships Sharing & Caring People Who Help Us My Community Citizenship Global Citizenship	<u>Areas of Focus:</u> Creation The World Around Us Sustainability Environmental Cycles: - Weather - Food (Harvest) Disasters - Famine, - Drought, - Floods	<u>Areas of Focus:</u> Sharing and reflecting on any topical issues (school based, local, national or international) and celebrating through songs, hymns poems etc.	<u>Areas of Focus:</u> Personal Achievements Personal & Group Goals Inspirational Figures Heroes/Heroines
<u>Lead:</u> JM/CR	<u>Lead:</u> LK	<u>Lead:</u> VPJ	<u>Lead:</u> SC	<u>Lead:</u> RJ