

**Pillgwenlly Primary School 14/15
Collective Worship Policy**

**Updated: April 2009/14
Adopted: April 2009**

**Collective Worship Team: K. Bevan
Collective Worship Governor: Sue Chesworth**

Equalities Statement

We recognise that Collective Worship and Celebration has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God within their own faith;
- to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation, reflection and response (taking into account observance of all faiths);
- to develop in children a sense of belonging, identity and community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Our Belief

Through Collective Worship we provide experiences of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging. We understand that these are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. We represent a variety of different faith stances and a diversity of responses, such as awareness of, appreciation of, respect for, preference for, commitment to, devotion to and adoration of. There is no compulsion to respond in one way but in a way that is appropriate. No presumptions are made on behalf of pupils.

We are committed to ensuring that the worship opportunities offered to pupils pay due regard to family background, age, aptitude and beliefs

Collective Worship

While the Christian Faith is used as a basis for worship. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to our own God. Our collective worship involves members of the school and community coming together and participating in an assembly. We encourage all to participate.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and the children know assembly time is a time for thinking, responding and calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and our children behave in an appropriate manner. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music for listening and for singing, or,

occasionally, a candle or other object that may act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Every day children are invited to pray to their own God. This is a highly respected act of worship. All pupils say our school prayer together. The level of respect evident during assembly is outstanding. It is an opportunity to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community and greatly contributes to the spiritual development of the community.

The themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics we teach as part of the school curriculum. We launch our week focusing on our S.E.A.L. theme, leaving children with a linked challenge for the week. Mid-week assemblies focus on world current affairs, Welsh Culture, Famous People. We end the week by celebrating our achievements.

These gatherings of the whole school play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Assembly may be led by Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Senior and Middle Leaders. We welcome and encourage pupils' and guests from different faiths, into school to lead our worship times. We also utilise our own pupils ethnicity and share in each others' festivals.

We welcome governors' and friends of our school to join us in our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

Any parent may request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for oversight of religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher and subject co-ordinator before reporting to the governors on any issues or concerns relating to religious education and/or collective worship.

Relationship to other policies.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- R.E. Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Equality Policy
- School Improvement Plan

