



"Opening doors to the future"

CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL MERTHYR TUDFIL

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREENFIELD SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Wayne Murphy, Head Teacher.
Rachel Faulkner, Deputy Head - Standards
Carol Conway, Deputy Head - Wellbeing
Gwyn Daniels - Assistant Head



‘ Opening Doors To The Future ’

‘ Agor drysau i’r dyfodol’

Original Completion Date

1/9/15

Author

W A Murphy

MONITORING THE POLICY

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually unless change of circumstances or legislation requires it to be amended earlier.

Signed: Date:

Head teacher

Signed: Date:

Chair of Governors

Review Date

1/9/16

Author

W A Murphy

Our Vision

'To open doors to the future'

Our Mission Statement

That children, staff, parents, carers and all stakeholders work actively in partnership to enable all pupils to realise and reach their full potential.

Aims

- For pupils to operate as independent learners and thinkers
- To inspire a love for learning
- To provide a relevant curriculum for all
- For pupils to value themselves
- To foster a sense of belonging to a community

Our Values

- We create
- We respect each other
- We try our best
- We are a team
- We learn from mistakes
- We celebrate each other's success
- We are polite and considerate
- We produce magic moments

We want every child to be safe and happy in our school. We believe that the key to this is for us all to have self-respect, respect for others and respect for property.

Everyone has the right to:

- Feel safe, cared for and respected.
- Be able to learn to the best of his/her ability and to develop whatever skills he/she possesses.
- Be treated equally irrespective of gender, race, physical characteristics or any other factors.
- Learn and play without disruption.

Everyone is expected to:

- Be responsible for their own behaviour
- Respect the rights of others
- Share our values

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - A STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Education Reform Act of 1988 requires all schools in Wales to devise their own collective worship policy in line with national and county guidelines and to outline the way in which the school intends to present collective worship to its pupils. It is a statutory requirement of the Act and one which demands a policy statement in the way all subjects of the National Curriculum do and in fact should be viewed as an integral part of our broadly based curriculum. The following is a brief outline of the main legislative requirements that apply to our school and it is with these in mind that our policy statement is devised.

1. The word *assembly* is never used in the Act; instead *collective* worship which, together with R.E., is seen as part of the school curriculum.

2. The main *organisational* requirements are that:

- a) collective worship must be **daily for all registered pupils**;
- b) it can be at any **time of the school day**;
- c) it can be in **whatever grouping the school wishes**;
- d) as a rule it must **take place on the school premises**. Any acts of collective worship off the school premises must be in *addition* to the statutory daily act of collective worship.

3. The clauses relating to style and content state that:

- a) the *majority* of acts of collective worship each term should be **“wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”** -that is reflecting the **“broad traditions of Christian belief”** - but they should be non-denominational;
- b) regard must be taken of the pupils’ **ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds**;
- c) if a school believes that **“wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”** is inappropriate, it **can apply to its local SACRE to have that clause lifted or modified for the whole school or for a class or description of pupils within the school**. In making such a request to the SACRE, the head teacher must consult with the governors who might also choose to seek the views of parents.

4. Parents retain the right to **withdraw** their children. Teachers’ rights are also safeguarded.

5. It is the duty of the head teacher -after consulting with the governing body - to see that these arrangements are carried out.

These requirements, in every aspect are prescriptive and strengthened by their position in terms of the law and so must be adhered to strictly. Our school also has a moral responsibility to its pupils to engage children daily in a thoughtful act of collective worship whilst respecting the integrity of all those who participate. It is with this in mind, that our policy must be clear, reflecting the aims and objectives of collective worship, the character of our school and the ways in which these can best be put into practice.

In response to this, the Local Authority suggests three guiding principles upon which any policy on collective worship should be founded. These have implications for both the content and the style of delivery to the children. These are:

1. that collective worship should be **INCLUSIVE**;
2. that collective worship should be **SPIRITUAL**;
3. that collective worship should be **EDUCATIONAL**.

Aims and Objectives

The following aims and objectives are set within the context of the individuality of our pupils and their learning difficulties.

1. Collective worship should aim to promote the spiritual development of each pupil in a sensitive and careful manner.
2. To enrich pupils' experiences and to enable them to be tolerant of other people's viewpoints, beliefs and customs.
3. An opportunity to experience worship or to be brought to the threshold of worship.
4. To consider that worship is relevant and meaningful.
5. To create an atmosphere appropriate for silent contemplation and to respond personally and positively.
6. To appreciate the use of symbols and language in worship.
7. To give pupils an opportunity to investigate their own religious viewpoints in relation to others by offering them new experiences.
8. To attempt to elicit a personal response to ultimate questions and therefore to raise their spiritual consciousness.
9. To promote a personal search for the Truth and the meaning of life.
10. To develop a sense of values within the school, and the local community and the world at large.

Organisation of Collective Worship

All the pupils are involved in collective worship daily. To best meet the requirements of the Education Reform Act and to fulfil the aims and objectives for collective worship, the children participate as members of different organisational groups.

Primary and Senior department - the children participating together in collective worship, as a complete school community is fundamental to the child's understanding of worship and the development of a sense of values within the school, and children's understanding of their rights in line with the UNCRC. These are important occasions and ones when parents and members of the local community may be involved.

Collective Worship in the Classroom - the children participate in collective worship with other members of their class. The style of presentation can be pupil centred allowing each child to participate as fully as they wish in a way which is more personal to them.

Planning and Content

The content of the collective worship is based on the development of a theme throughout the week. These themes are based on the suggestions provided by the Local Authority (see Appendix A) and encompass both Christianity and the other major religions represented in Wales. Themes may also reflect the celebration of those festivals throughout the year which are important to individual children and to the development of a community ethos within the school.

The planning is carried out on three levels with the three organisational groups in mind – the whole school, the primary/secondary department and the individual class. The development of the theme is outlined, as well as a bank of suggestions for the collective worship within the classroom (Appendix B).

It is intended that the content will follow a two-year cycle of themes.

At times throughout the school year the collective worship will be presented by the children themselves reflecting a theme of their choice, usually connected with the work they are undertaking in the classroom. It may also be connected with a special time of the year - Harvest Festival,

Christmas and St. David's day - these services often supported by a representative from one of our local churches.

Local ministers/Priests are invited to speak at special assemblies throughout the year.

Organisation of Collective Worship

The daily format of collective worship can vary but might be based on the following structure:-

- Music
- Song
- Main content (story, reading, talk, role play)
- Prayers

Announcements and Birthdays may follow as part of the assembly but not as collective worship.

Planning, Recording, Evaluating

It is important that acts of collective worship are carefully planned in line with all other aspects and subjects of the curriculum to ensure:

- A balance in content and approach
- Relevance to the pupils' interests and needs
- An appropriateness to their aptitudes and abilities

The school's plans for daily collective worship follow an Annual cycle and can be found in Appendix.

Role of Governing Body

Governing Bodies are accountable in terms of ensuring that local needs are met in relation to the provision of collective worship.

Visiting Providers for Collective Worship

Please refer to Visitors and speaker policy.

Policy Review

The Policy statement will be reviewed in line with the programme of monitoring displayed in the School Development Plan.

Headteacher Date

Chair of Governors