


Ysgol Maesydderwen



Collective Worship Policy

Polisi Codi Tâl

Type: Statutory Policy

Reviewed / Adopted On	Signed	Next Review
18/3/2021		Spring Term 2023

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

PRINCIPLES:

At Ysgol Maesydderwen we believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship.

It is legal requirements that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

PRACTICE:

At Ysgol Maesydderwen we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There are two whole school assemblies each week. In addition: Key Stage Teams lead one Key Stage 3 and 4 assembly each week; form tutors lead key stage assemblies and also lead tutor groups through readings and reflections during tutor time on the remaining morning.

Members of the SLT and Middle Leaders lead whole school worship each week, Key Stage Leaders lead Key Stage 3 and 4 assembly. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership of some assemblies and at certain times of the year.

There is a planned themed calendar for each week of the school year along with a thought of the week.

Please see additional guidance on assemblies in Appendix 1

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The Deputy Headteacher plans the calendar of 'Thought for the Week' and the Themes of each week.
- All Form Tutors follow the 'Thought for the Week' programme in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Head Teacher.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

APPENDIX 1

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND CONDUCTING ASSEMBLIES

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

SONG/MUSIC

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. Music from a variety of cultures and types is used on occasions. Music should be selected carefully to match the theme.

PRAYER/REFLECTION

We feel that, whilst prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. Various forms of introduction to our prayers can be used to distance children, whilst giving them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Christian prayer...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.