

St Brides Major CW Primary School



*Love Learning for Life
Caru Dysgu am Oes*

Collective Worship Policy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. Statutory requirements for Collective Worship

The place of collective worship has been firmly established in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Collective Worship in St Brides Major C/W Primary School will be wholly or mainly of a Christian character in accordance with the School's Trust Deed.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship and praise God.
- To provide a time for reflection, celebration and hope
- To provide the opportunity for children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation or worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To encourage respect and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices.
- To teach children how to worship.

3. Our understanding of Collective Worship

We understand Collective Worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in this special activity. We expect everyone to take an active part in worship.

Our worship is based on Christian doctrine and beliefs of the Church in Wales.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, in order to foster awareness, understanding and acceptance of other denominations and faiths, we also hold worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

4. Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. It is led by staff, clergy, visitors and by the pupils. The nature of worship varies, from whole school to separate Nursery/Reception and Y1 to Y6 groupings to class groups.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children see worship time as a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Children are required to be quiet and thoughtful at the appropriate times and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns or choruses.

We create an appropriate atmosphere using music, candles, on special occasions incense, and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of children.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and enhance the attitudes and values we hold as a school community.

We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our worship reflects and celebrates the talents, achievements and learning of the children.

Our weekly Celebration worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to give thanks to God.

This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of our school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Brides school is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of the children in our worship.

We regularly invite parents, governors and the community of St Brides, including the members of St Bridget's and Ewenny Priory churches to join us in worship at school. We join the congregations at both churches regularly encouraging parents to also attend. Eucharists and special services are held at both churches throughout the year as well as in the school. Children are taking an increasing role in these acts of worship.

Over the course of a term, collective worship should include:

- The teachings of Jesus and other Bible stories
- Moral stories from other sources and world religions reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Anglican year
- Prayer
- Songs
- Children's drama and presentations
- Eucharists
- Reflection

A variety of people will lead acts of Worship, including the Head teacher, the staff team, the member of the ministry team and visitors.

A typical week will be:

Monday – Worship led by the Head teacher for R to Y6

- Reception and Morning Nursery worship led by teaching staff

Tuesday – Worship led by Deputy Head teacher for R to Y6

Wednesday – Worship led by member of the ministry team for R to Y6

Thursday - Whole school worship through song

Friday - Whole school Celebration worship led by Senior Leadership Team

5. **Whole school worship format**

- Gathering and welcome:
- Welsh greeting and children respond in Welsh and welcome visitors similarly
- Candle lighting to signify the beginning of worship with the words:

“Jesus is the light of the world,

I must be like Jesus.”

- Hymn/chorus with the main theme of the worship
 - Bible reading
 - Reflection
 - Sending prayers with the candle flame
 - The Lord’s Prayer (either said or sung)
 - Grace / Blessing (Welsh or English)
- At least once a week we will say the School Prayer together
 - Celebration worship on Fridays will conclude with the singing of the Song of Blessing

6. Worship when social distancing is necessary.

During the Covid19 outbreak when social distancing and year group bubbles were necessary, worship was based in each class and led by the class teacher, HT and a limited number of visitors. Coverage of themes and values was planned as normal. Some worships were led virtually via video technology, some live and some recorded. This plan would be used again and adapted if necessary by making use of up to date technology should the circumstances dictate.

7. Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can 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.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship to ensure they are safe.

7. Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor (nominated member of the ministry team) with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and worship.

All staff will be responsible for implementing this policy with support from the Head teacher.

Monitoring and Review	
Author	Curriculum Sub Committee
Created on	March 2015
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Signed HT	
Signed Chair	