



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

NEWBRIDGE ON WYE CHURCH IN WALES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

The School is legally required to provide daily collective worship for all pupils aged 5 or over. This can be at any time of the school day and can be in separate groups. Most acts of collective worship should be of a broadly Christian character. The collective worship which the School provides should take account of the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.

“The school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.” (From the School’s Ethos Statement)

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of the School’s collective worship and of this Policy are:

- To provide a daily opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To promote, and to enable pupils to consider, spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs in ways appropriate to their ages..
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching or joining in worship.
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To be sensitive to the beliefs of any pupils whose faith is not Christian
- To encourage respect and understanding for those with different beliefs and religious practices.
- To introduce pupils to the practice of prayer and silence in worship and teach them how to worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Our School’s act of daily worship generally takes place as a distinct part of Assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in it (unless notice of withdrawal has been given). We conduct our Assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the School.

We aim to share our acts of worship with local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups and to take the themes of our Assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and reflect and build on topics from the school curriculum. Our Assemblies aim to reflect and celebrate the achievements and learning of pupils. We will invite parents and governors to our Assemblies and encourage them to attend.

We will:

- Use the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Reflect on Christian symbols and festivals and their place in worship
- Observe the cycle of the Church-in-Wales year
- Enable pupils to participate in special services and events in the local church
- Engage in prayer
- Use meditation and silence
- Worship through song
- Celebrate achievement, shared values and beliefs

- Follow our monthly value themes

The Head Teacher is responsible for organising the programme and presentation of collective worship in accordance with this Policy

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all pupils to attend Assembly and to participate in the collective worship forming part of Assembly. However, any parent has the statutory right to withdraw their child from religious education or collective worship without giving their reasons. Members of staff likewise have the right of withdrawal. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all pupils who are to be withdrawn from collective worship and will organise their activities and supervision by staff during collective worship.

Equality

In implementing and reviewing this and related policies, the School will avoid unlawful discrimination and will seek to apply the policies consistently to all pupils, parent/carers, staff and visitors irrespective of age, disability, race or ethnic background, gender (sex), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

The School will comply with all relevant equalities legislation and will promote equality in all aspects of school life

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

A named governor, usually the Vicar, is responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship and will monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship in consultation with the Head Teacher. They will report to the Governing Body who will evaluate the effectiveness of this Policy and review it annually.

Revision approved by staff

Revision adopted by the Governing Body July 2014

Signed

(Mrs H.A. Nixon), Head teacher

(Julian Gibson-Watt), Chair of Governors