# Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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CoG:

## Introduction

## Policy Statement for Collective Worship at Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School

Collective Worship is part of the whole school curriculum which is intended to promote the 'Spiritual, moral, mental, physical development of pupils and of society' and prepare pupils 'for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'. (1998 ERA).

The 1998 Act lays down a number of requirements regarding school worship. These include:

1. There will be a daily act of worship for all pupils at the school. This can be at any time of the school day and does not have to be a gathering of the whole school together.

2. Parents may withdraw their children from acts of worship and teachers may also opt out of participating in them. Children withdrawn from worship will be supervised.

3. Most acts of Worship are to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

4. The arrangements for collective worship are made by the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher. It is the duty of the Governing Body to make the necessary arrangements, within the law, for the act of worship to be consistent with the purpose of the school.

5. The daily responsibility for worship lies with the Head Teacher after consultation with the Governing Body.

6. The act of worship is not designated as curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum. Services held in church will not be counted as curriculum time or as part of the daily act of worship.

## Ethos Statement

Church in Wales schools are designated through the Religious Character of Schools (Designation Procedure) 1998 as having a religious character. The following statement has been adopted by all Church in Wales schools:-

*'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.*

*The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of faith and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers.*'

**Mission Statement**

At Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School we believe that religious education should make an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs.
- Promote tolerance, empathy and understanding of religions, cultures and moral issues of our communities and the wider world.
- Share joy, sorrow and a deeper understanding of God's love.
- Place an emphasis on loyalty to friends and to try to encourage a sense of commitment and belonging. Above all, our children are encouraged to learn to live and work together in harmony, so that they grow up aware of the wonder of life and its Creator.

**Aims of Collective Worship**

1. To give pupils opportunity to worship God.
2. To create a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
3. To foster an awareness of our Christian Heritage.
4. To create a sense of pattern, order and purpose.
5. To be aware of our relationship with others and the natural world.
6. To empathise with others and value our personal world.
7. To recognise the festivals and celebrations of the local community.

We will:

- Use the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning.
- Reflect on the use of Christian symbols in Worship.
- Observe the cycle of the Anglican year.
- Conduct special services in St Peter's church and in the community.
- Use meditation and silence.
- Celebrate achievement, shared values and beliefs.
- Foster an attitude of tolerance and understanding of other faith beliefs as appropriate.
- Take into account the ages of the pupils, their aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- For children in the Foundation Phase, use appropriate language and concepts to their age.
- Use material for the older pupils that will challenge their perceptions of the world.
- Follow our value themes to create a framework of worship.
- Ensure collective worship in school is sensitive to those children whose faith is not Christian.
- Provide daily collective worship for children to access on Google Classroom as part of a blended learning approach.

**Arrangements**

Collective worship will normally take place in the school hall, with children facing the Cross on the wall. (See Appendix 1 for guidance on collective worship). A Focus Table will be placed at the front of the hall with a candle and appropriate artefact to foster an atmosphere conducive to worship. This will be set up by members of the Values Team.

- Children will be expected to enter and leave the hall quietly in an orderly manner and to reflect.
- A timetable is in place and members of staff are provided with material for their theme.

- Involvement of Pupils and Others:
    - Visitors from the Church and other places of worship in the community are often invited to lead worship.
    - There will be special services when the whole school will participate, such as Harvest and Remembrance Day.
    - During Friday assemblies children will be encouraged to display awards or certificates for achievements gained inside or outside school. Children will also share their work as a celebration of work in class. High attendance is also praised during Friday's assembly time.
    - There will be opportunities for all classes to present their own assembly, during which they will display and celebrate their work and areas of study. Parents of children in that class will be invited to attend.
- Collective Worship will also be planned and accessible to children via Google Classroom as part of the current blended learning approach.

## Timetable

Throughout the week, children will have a:

1. Values,
2. Seal,
3. Hymn practise,
4. Awards' and Celebration assembly (Seren yr Wythnos).
5. There will be a mixture of whole school worship or in class worship.

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| **MONDAY** | Whole School Worship (led by Head Teacher) |
| **TUESDAY** | Singing Practise (Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 held separately) |
| **WEDNESDAY** | Whole School Worship linked to the week's key events (led by staff on a rota) |
| **THURSDAY** | Whole School Worship (led by Deputy Head Teacher) |
| **FRIDAY** | Seren yr Wythnos (Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 held separately) |

## Equalities

Collective Worship is conducted in ways that enable all pupils to access this time, regardless of ethnic group, age, disability, special educational need and gender. It must be recognised that the inward response of each present constitutes worship and not the repetition of songs and prayers; these may be a vehicle of worship but they are not worship itself. Staff and pupils should be given opportunities to respond in their own way so that no-one is excluded by reason of background, culture, religion or non-religious stance.

## Planning and Recording Acts of Daily Worship

- Staff can use the 'Collective Worship' documents to plan their worships, using our Values Cycle as the basis for their assemblies.
- Each act of Worship is recorded daily by the Digital Leaders.
- Lunchtime commences with the saying of a prayer.
- The school day ends with a prayer.
- The Worship and Values Team take regular evaluations about Collective Worship in order to provide feedback and ideas to improve worship.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Governors will review the policy as and when required and should have an understanding of the policy when conducting their link governor role. The Head Teacher will ensure the policy is adhered to and monitor and review. The RE Co-

ordinator can provide appropriate information and material if required to support worship.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective worship is an annual item on the agenda of the Governing Body when discussion and evaluation can take place.

**Appendix 1**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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| **Entry to Hall** | Music playing<br>Classical tracks as per Values for Life |
| **Greeting by Lead** | May the Lord be with you …<br>…And also with you<br>*Light Candle* |
| **Song** | See Assembly Plans or chosen by pupils/staff |
| **Main Focus** | Worship |
| **Reflection Period** | Thinking time about main focus |
| **Prayer** | Led by Lead or pupil<br>Linked to theme |
| **Lord's Prayer** | |
| **Spontaneous Prayer** | By Pupil (days clarify) |
| **Blow Out the Candle** | Go in peace to love and serve the lord. (Leader)<br><br>Amen. (Everyone else) |
| **Music to Exit** | Classical<br>Should be linked to the Values Assembly |