



Dreaming, believing, succeeding together
Breuddwydio, coelio, llwyddo gyda'n gilydd

Collective Worship Policy

Policy reviewed: June 2019

Policy valid until: Summer 2023

Policy owned by: *The Headteacher*

Headteacher: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Collective Worship Policy

Collective worship at Ysgol Y Foryd aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider the spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

The legal context:

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Welsh Office Circular 10/94 set out the legal requirements for collective worship in schools in Wales. These requirements apply to pupils in maintained schools other than special schools. The requirements do not apply to colleges of further education or to nursery schools or nursery classes in infant or primary schools.

The requirements are:

- schools must provide collective worship daily for all registered pupils,
- most acts of collective worship in each term should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. This means that they should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination,
- collective worship can take place at any time during the school day,
- collective worship can be provided to pupils in any sized group, for example, as a class, a year group, a phase group or a whole-school community, and
- collective worship should take account of the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.

There is no legal requirement to provide collective worship for pupils aged under five.

Rights:

A parent can request that their child is excused from collective worship and schools must agree to such requests. Parents do not have to give reasons. Pupils who are excused must be supervised by the school. The school may, in agreement with parents, provide alternative arrangements for worship for one or more pupils that are excused, but is not obliged to do so. The school prospectus refers to parents' right to request that their child is excused from collective worship and the arrangements for pupils who are excused are outlined.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship. However, the school must ensure that collective worship is still provided daily for all pupils.

Organisation:

Collective worship at Ysgol Y Foryd takes a number of forms. Pupils may take some or

all of the lead or it may be led by teaching staff or visitors to the school. Collective worship may incorporate one or more of the following:

- **Reflection** – pupils may be encouraged to listen to, watch or reflect on an appropriate stimulus, such as a reading from the Bible or other religious writing, a drama sketch, a dance, a video, a song, a piece of music, an artefact, a poem, a story, a news article, a photograph, a picture, a prayer, a question, a ritual or a presentation or a talk from a member of staff or visiting speaker.
- **Prayer** – pupils may be encouraged to say a prayer aloud together or to pray individually in silence.
- **Song** – pupils may be encouraged to sing a hymn or other worship song together.
- **Reading** – pupils may be encouraged to read an extract from the Bible or other religious writing, or a 'theme of the week'

Records of collective worship are kept in a file in the school hall. The Headteacher allocates a theme per week over the whole year and collective worship is based on this.

The schools coordinator for collective worship is the Headteacher, who is responsible for the resources, maintaining the schools records of collective worship and ensuring regular evaluation of the process.

The aims of collective worship:

- To provide stimulus for quiet reflection, inner response/though and active participation.
- To enrich the experience of our pupils and contribute towards their spiritual and moral development.
- To help our pupils understand the language and nature of worship and to explore their own beliefs, in relation to those of others.
- To provide moments of awe and wonder.
- To enable the sharing of common emotions (such as love, joy, hope, fear, forgiveness).
- To allow for the expressing of humility, worry, sorrow,, and to encourage the development of sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others.
- To foster a sense of community and to provide the opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community.
- To inform our pupils of the teachings of the Christian faith, in accordance with guidelines.