



A Whole School Policy for Collective Worship

Introduction

At St. Michael's the Governing Body accepts the statutory obligations outlined in the 1988 Education Act and the updated recommendations of the 1993 Education Act:

"Every pupil attending a Church in Wales (aided) Primary School will as far as is practicable take part in a daily Act of Collective Worship. It is accepted that the worship can take place at any time during the school day and for this purpose pupils can be grouped in various ways, as a whole school, according to age or in teaching or year groups."

It is further understood that:

"Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the Act of Worship."

And that:

"The daily Act of Worship must take place on the school premises and the nature of the Act should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. The worship must be appropriate for the pupils taking into account their ages, aptitudes and abilities."

This policy has been developed following consultation with all school staff and is based on the assumption that Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the school's aims and ethos.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunities to come together as a whole school to celebrate Christian celebrations.
- To experience activities / stories / songs / music which reflect on the spiritual and moral dimensions of life.
- To experience feelings associated with worship, such as awe, wonder, joy happiness, gratitude, reverence, appreciation etc.
- To enable pupils and staff to experience stillness and silence, and where possible, to develop the skills required for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- To provide experiences/activities which will enable pupils to appreciate and understand the use of symbolism / religious language.
- To provide opportunities that encourage values such as honesty, fairness and respect and the ability to distinguish right from wrong.
- For some pupils, worship will encourage them to ask questions, possibly allowing them to develop opinions / beliefs of their own.
- To provide opportunities to celebrate major festivals from various faith groups other than Christianity.

Organisation and Structure of School Worship

At St. Michael's Collective Worship is referred to as an "Assembly". Whole school "Assemblies" are held every day in the school hall, from 9.05 to 9.20am. School Assemblies are planned according to the following daily timetable:

Day	Assembly led by
Monday	Headteacher / Teachers
Tuesday	Worship through Song
Wednesday	Father Mark
Thursday	Worship in Classes
Friday	Gwasanaeth Dathlu

All Assemblies are planned, sometimes in line with an on-going theme such as the miracles or parables of Jesus or the lives of inspirational people etc. Other assemblies may be stand alone topics such as aspects of the church year, saints' days or other themes linked with class work. A planning proforma is attached.

In addition to the weekly Assemblies, special services are held in St. Michael's Church each term.

Pupils are encouraged to take a participative role in all Assemblies - this may involve reading, playing instruments, singing, helping to dramatise a story etc.

The local priest, Father Mark leads assembly on Wednesdays throughout the year.

The atmosphere in school Assemblies is vital and every effort is made to create a distinctly spiritual atmosphere which is markedly different from all other school activities. The use of background music, pictures, artefacts, candles etc. helps to create such an atmosphere.

Songs and hymns are always sung during whole school Assemblies. The Anglican dimension is present through the candle, the altar as a focal point and the saying of The Grace and suitable Anglican responses.

Curriculum Cymreig

School Assemblies will reflect the language and culture of Wales, with Welsh songs/hymns, poems, traditional Welsh tales etc. being used where appropriate.

Resources

The school has a wide range of resources to support school Assemblies. These include: inspirational music (CDs), music/song books, instruments, Bibles, OHP, candles, as well as artefacts to support Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

A list of Festivals of some of the major faith groups may be found in the Collective Worship file in the staffroom.

Equal Opportunities/Race Equality

School Assemblies will be planned to reflect the statutory requirements of the 1988/1993 Education Acts in that they should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. However, as part of the broad curriculum offered to all the pupils at St. Michael's the major festivals from some faith groups will also be celebrated- Diwali, Eid, Shabbat, Hannukah etc.

Skills

All Assemblies are generally presented to pupils through a “hands on” approach, with the following core and key skills being identified and developed through a variety of Worship experiences/activities.

Bringing the core skills into collective worship adds and extra dimension to the pupils' participation and helps to strengthen the school's distinctive Christian Character

Core Skills

- Spiritual Development
- Personal, Social Wellbeing
- Communication
- Thinking and Problem Solving
- Curriculum Cymraeg

Key Skills

- Communication
- Mathematical
- Information Technology
- Problem-solving
- Creative
- Personal and Social

School Assemblies follow a multi-sensory approach in that pupils will be encouraged to develop and use a variety of the key skills that have been identified above.

Staff Development

In line with the school's Staff Development Policy, staff will have access to in-service training and support, as and when appropriate. The Collective Worship co-ordinator (who is also the co-ordinator for Religious Education) will also disseminate any relevant information to all staff.

Recording

Pupils' participation in school Assemblies/special services is recorded in the portfolio, “A Celebration of Religious Education and Collective Worship”.

The Role of the Co-ordinator/Headteacher

The co-ordinator for Collective Worship works in partnership with the headteacher and has responsibility for: rota planning, arrangements for visiting Clergy, delivery, recording and monitoring. She has the responsibility for the purchasing of new resources, materials and artefacts. The co-ordinator will attend relevant courses to update skills and knowledge, as and when appropriate.