



**Rhyl
Community
Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy



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It is the requirement of the law that all maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Rhyl Community Primary School has a determination from the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) allowing for this requirement to be lifted.

Aims and Objectives:

- To foster pupils' moral, social, spiritual and cultural development;
- To provide an opportunity for prayer, or for silent reflection on life's meaning, values and concerns.
- To reflect on values and on their own beliefs
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- To encourage respect for everyone and the differences between us.
- To raise awareness of the wider world and topical issues.

Equal opportunities:

Parents have the right of withdrawal of their child from the collective worship sessions. However, the aim of these sessions should be such that all children should be able to attend and indeed empathise with much of the content, without feeling any pressure of indoctrination. Likewise, there will be no obligation on children to participate in hymns or prayers of a religious nature but instead to use the time for private, silent reflection.

Where a child is withdrawn, appropriate activities will be provided.

Inclusion

The collective act of worship should be educational but not interpreted as a directive to children of different faiths to worship in a way that is unacceptable to them. "Worship" broadly interpreted, relates to the respect for and celebration of values that we deem to be of *worth*. A collective act of worship, in the form of a school assembly or similar, is a morally and spiritually uplifting part of children's education and can also help to unify a school community with diverse social and religious cultures or backgrounds.

Collective worship must reflect beliefs that are upheld within different religious denominations, or within other social or moral codes of practice.

These beliefs are essentially:

- that all people are to be valued regardless of age, race, gender or disability;
- that we must strive to eradicate prejudice, war and cruelty;
- that the human race is responsible for the stewardship of the earth's resources, and for ensuring that the world is a place in which justice, peace and harmony reign.

Implementation

Assembly and Collective Worship is an integral and important part of the school day. Care must be taken to ensure a calm, sharing and reflecting atmosphere. During Collective Worship a sense of special quality time should be developed. Pupils should be invited to listen quietly to information, stories or prayers that are read, think about them and join in only if they wish. They may be invited simply to reflect quietly.

The school holds a daily collective act of worship involving, usually but not exclusively, a key stage assembly. This will provide a time for discussion of shared values or concerns, or celebrating festivals of a religious nature (these will include Christian festivals as well as others such as Diwali, Passover, Chinese New Year). Assemblies are each morning for approximately 15 minutes.

The theme or issue of the assembly may be illustrated with displays in the assembly hall or elsewhere in the school. Outside speakers may be invited to address the assembly. Themes will be delivered through class presentations, the reading of poetry or stories, singing of songs, hymns, performances etc. Stories may be traditional fables, modern stories, or from the Bible or other non-Christian religious writings.

Children are given the opportunity to think about what has been experienced, respond to it, relate their own experiences and use their imagination to go beyond the experience provided.

Assemblies should show a balance of music, speech and silence. Pupils often find it easier to focus their thoughts if there are pictures, books, artefacts or objects to look at and these should be used at appropriate times.

Participation in songs is a valuable educational activity for all children in that it provides them with an opportunity to feel for themselves what it means for others to engage in these particular forms of worship. Songs should be chosen with care so that they are accessible to the majority of pupils and support the theme of the assembly.

At the end of each act of collective worship, children are given the opportunity for silent reflection or prayer. Where a prayer is read out, children of other or no religious denominations are invited to share in the sentiments of the prayer or to use the time to think silently about what they have heard and discussed during the assembly. This may be introduced with wording such as: "...think about the words I am going to say"; "I'm going to read a prayer. If you'd like to listen to the words carefully and think about their meaning...", etc.

Where prayers are used, they should be chosen with careful consideration for the various faiths and beliefs, and should be introduced with a form of words that acknowledges the different standpoints of all children.

Involving the community:

Parents should be made aware of the school's collective worship policy, e.g. through the school prospectus. They are encouraged to attend and participate in these acts of collective worship. Likewise the school encourages the involvement of local community groups, of a variety of faiths and cultures, to take part. The beliefs and values of the members of the school community should also be reflected in the content and themes of the collective worship assemblies.

The assembly and act of worship must at all times show respect for all individuals within the school. Care must be taken to ensure no one feels alienated or pressurised to take part in anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. Pupils should be invited to join in reflection, otherwise they should be asked to remain quiet for the sake of those who do wish to join in. Respect and celebration of all cultures and religions will be taken into account.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The collective act of worship programme is planned in advance over a termly period of time, by the Senior Leadership team. This is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the effectiveness of the content and delivery of the collective worship. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Date: March 2026

Review Date: March 2029