

Aberdare Community School Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr



Collective Worship Policy

Date Adopted	12 th July 2023
Signature of Headteacher	<i>Evelyn Morgan</i>
Signature of Chair of Governors	Mrs E Bryant
Date to be reviewed	July 2025

Statutory Duty of School

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. This act of worship should generally take place on the school premises. The content of the majority of acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination*'. (ERA 7.1-3) The content should have regard for the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils. All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. 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. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. The Collective Worship Policy at Aberdare Community School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. The Collective Worship Policy of Aberdare Community School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. 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.

Aberdare Community School recognises that 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
- collective worship should take account of the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved

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 should refer to parents' right to request that their child is excused from collective worship and outline the arrangements for pupils who are excused. The Education and Inspections Bill 2006 gives pupils in sixth forms the right to excuse themselves from collective worship. This legislation was brought into force in Wales in February 2009. Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship. However, the school must ensure that collective worship is still provided daily for all pupils.

https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/NIA%20Supplementary%20guidance%20-%20collective%20worship_0.pdf

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Aberdare Community School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

It is intended that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Each form group will take part in a formal assembly on 1 occasion each week. This will be on a rota basis which is organised by the Assistant Headteacher responsible for DACW. When groups are not in an assembly, they will be expected, with the guidance of their form tutor, to discuss their opinions on the 'DACW Thought of the Day'. This will take place in individual form rooms.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. There will be a weekly theme, taking into consideration special occasions and events, but will also be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. There will be weekly recording sheets to ensure that there is continuity and progression and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and/or prayer. If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Arrangements for Reviewing the Policy

The policy was agreed by the Governors on 18th May 2022 and will be reviewed on a regular basis at in accordance with curriculum changes from Welsh Government.