



Ysgol Penmaes

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as detailed in the school's policy review cycle. It may also be necessary to review and amend it sooner to reflect both local and national changes.

Ratified by Governing Body	Signature	Date
Headteacher: Angharad Bryn-Jones		8.2.23
Chair of Governors: Clancy Brett		8.2.23
Next review date: February 2024		

Our Vision is: At Ysgol Penmaes we continually strive to do more than just educate, it is our aim to offer every learner the opportunity to achieve their full potential in a safe, secure and enriching environment. We offer a curriculum that promotes ambitious, capable and informed learners at a developmentally appropriate level. Penmaes places a strong focus on the well-being of all,

facilitated through highly effective communication processes. Learning is delivered in a way that facilitates an immersive multi-sensory curriculum that is fun and provides real life authentic experiences which help to build resilience; positively impacting development, whilst ensuring the promotion of collaboration and independence. As a special school, we ensure a common language for learning along with celebrating and embracing Cynefin/place whilst planning, teaching and learning ensures a broad, balanced and creative curriculum promoting the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales and encouraging learners to be the best they can be.

Our Mission Statement is: Successful Healthy Individuals Nurturing Excellence

Our School Values are fundamental:

- Friendship and kindness
- Resilience and perseverance
- Empathy and trust
- Communication and respect
- Responsibility and teamwork
- Positivity and creativity
- Tolerance and trust

All of our values promote healthy, positive relationships. By modeling the values we aim to raise learners' self-esteem and confidence in learning, whilst creating a positive school community environment for all.

The Education Reform Act of 1988 along with the updated recommendations of the 1993 Education Act require all schools in Wales to devise their own collective worship policy in line with national and county guidelines and to outline the way in which the school intends to present collective worship to its learners. Further to this it states that:

'Every pupil attending a special school will as far as is practicable take part in a daily Act of Collective Worship.'

It is further understood that:

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

(Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship. It is the duty of the headteacher - after consulting with the governing body - to see that these arrangements are carried out).

And that:

'The daily Act of Collective Worship...and the nature of the Act should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.'

Definition of Collective Worship:

Collective worship is the time set aside from other aspects of school life when learners (and staff) are given opportunities to learn and reflect on a variety of issues (both in the present and in the past), which may stimulate 'worshipful responses'.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole.
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development.

The aims and objectives of Collective Worship:

The following aims and objectives are set within the context of the individuality of our learners and their learning difficulties.

- Collective worship should aim to promote the spiritual development of each pupil in a sensitive and careful manner.
- To enrich learners' experiences and to enable them to be tolerant of other people's viewpoints, beliefs and customs.
- An opportunity to experience worship or to be brought to the threshold of worship.
- To consider that worship is relevant and meaningful.
- To create an atmosphere appropriate for silent contemplation (where appropriate) and to respond personally and positively.
- To appreciate the use of symbols and language in worship.
- To give learners an opportunity to investigate their own religious viewpoints in relation to others by offering them new experiences.
- To attempt to elicit a personal response to ultimate questions and therefore to raise their spiritual consciousness.
- To promote a personal search for the Truth and the meaning of life.
- To develop a sense of values within the school, and the local community and the world at large.
- To celebrate achievements.

At Ysgol Penmaes the principles of all assemblies/collective worship are that they should be:

- inclusive
- educational
- spiritual

and contribute to the moral, social and cultural development of learners. They include mainly Christian worship and are seen as special times when children can feel secure, relaxed and part of a community. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship (for example, festivals, holy days, etc.).

Organisation of Collective Worship at Ysgol Penmaes:

DAY	THEME	LEAD
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Monday	Gwasanaeth Cymraeg	Designated Teachers
Tuesday	In-class collective worship	Class teachers
Wednesday	Class Assembly	Weekly rota of all classes
Thursday	In-class collective worship	Class teachers
Friday	Celebration assembly	Senior Leaders

During the 'Gwasanaeth Cymraeg' themes in these assemblies include: fruit, colours, numbers, daily routine, animals, food, body parts and transport; in order for learners to learn everyday vocabulary.

On Wednesdays learners have the opportunity to provide an assembly presentation for all classes to access. themes include Bible stories, Christian celebrations such as Easter, Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) and Christmas, stories/celebrations from other faiths e.g. 'Eid', 'Passover', 'Diwali' and 'Hanukkah' etc.

In-class assemblies involve an act of collective worship whether it be through songs or stories.

Friday's assembly is a celebration for all learners. 'Special Mention' certificates are given to learners who have excelled in effort, achievement or the school values.

As well as the usual weekly assemblies, often we have 'special' assemblies. During Anti-Bullying Week PC Geraint Skyrme (school liaison officer) delivers an assembly. The Pupil Leadership Team delivers assemblies on the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child , as we are a 'Rights Respecting School'.

Assemblies are continuing to be phased back in following the Covid pandemic.

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually unless changes in circumstances or legislation require it to be amended earlier.