

Collective Worship Policy



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights-respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships
- Linked to Article 14 (CRC)

Collective worship is an educational activity which is on par with the rest of the school curriculum. Collective worship is distinct from and is no substitute for the teaching of Religious Education in the classroom. At Penllergaer Primary School, pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship and other arrangements are made for those pupils who are exempt. The assembly will contain English and / or Welsh hymns and prayers.

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.

Principles of Assembly

Assemblies/collective worship should be pupil-centred, related to pupils' own experience and concerns. They should acknowledge diversity, and pupils should take an active part in assemblies.

Assemblies should be educational. They should have a purpose and relate to other curriculum activities.

Assemblies should be spiritual: a time for reflection and individual worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

- ◆ To provide the opportunity for an experience of worship.
- ◆ To reflect on the values and concerns of the school and the community it serves.
- ◆ To deepen and widen a child's emotional response.
- ◆ To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves according to the tenets of their faith.
- ◆ To promote respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others.

Format of school assemblies.

Monday: Y1/2 and KS2 is an assembly where hymns can be learnt. Early Years have their own assembly in an Early Years classroom.

Tuesday: Tuesday has been designated as a "community assembly" day. This gives children an opportunity to see ministers, vicars, church workers outside of the "church" and for members of the community to become part of the school community.

In Penllergaer we have strong links with the local church i.e. St. David's Church in Wales. The vicar is a visitor to the school in his capacity as vicar, governor and friend of the school. A list of community members who take assembly:

Adrian Morgan	ASt Catherine's church
Phil Davies	Dunvant Christian Fellowship
Stephen Treseder	Castleton Church
Linda Woollacott	Methodist Chapel

Wednesday: Class based assembly. Class teachers discuss the value of the month and give the children time to reflect on current issues.

Thursday: Whole School Assembly - Headteacher or Deputy led. Hymns taught.

Friday: Whole school awards assembly - guests in school are invited to join in.

The children gather in the upper school hall.

Planning

Assemblies are planned on a yearly basis, incorporating themes that foster spiritual, cultural and moral development. Themes include examples from various religious cultures and are linked to the Calendar of Rights and Religious Festivals for the year:

- ◆ religious events
- ◆ special days
- ◆ special events in the life of Penllergaer Primary School
- ◆ topics being undertaken.

At Penllergaer Primary School there is much for which to be thankful, much to praise, much to hope for and request, and we introduce these elements in our assemblies.

The themes teach the children to reflect on serious affairs and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities: songs, music making,

hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought/reflection, prayer and discussion.

The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. Arrangements are made for those children who are withdrawn from collective worship. They are given appropriate work and supervised in the activity room by members of staff (on a rota basis).

Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

As part of our overarching aim for pupils to fulfil their full potential across the curriculum we will endeavour to ensure that all children are given the necessary support to access learning in this area in line with our equal opportunity and disability scheme.

Reviewed annually by AoLE team

Signed: *J.E. Woolcock*

Headteacher