

Ysgol Gynradd  
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*'Every child, every chance, every day'  
'Pob plentyn, pob cyfle, pob dydd'*

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Number	Date Reviewed	Date of Next Review
YBGP12	March 2018	March 2021

### 1. Context of the School:

Ysgol Brynffordd is a Community Primary School, which opened in 1964. The school caters for boys and girls aged between 4 and 11 years. A nursery is also established at the school, which receives children who are 3 years of age and these sessions are held every morning and afternoon. Ysgol Brynffordd also takes in Early Entitlement children. This means that children can start Nursery in the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Ysgol Brynffordd was proud to be a pilot school for Foundation Phase from 2004, so children from Nursery to Year 2 are taught in one unit by a team of very dedicated well trained staff.

The medium of instruction is English, but all pupils study Welsh and it is a priority of ours to see the Welsh ethos pervade all aspects of school life.

### 2. The Legal Context:

At Ysgol Brynffordd School the main aim for collective act of worship ensures that it complies with the Education Acts of all maintained schools.

- All pupils should take part in an act of collective worship every day
- Such acts of collective worship may be as a whole school together; or in other groups as the school may decide (except religious groups)
- Arrangements for acts of collective worship shall be made by the headteacher, after consultation with the governing body
- All acts of collective worship shall be on the school premises
- The majority of acts of collective worship, in any school term as a whole, shall be, "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" and which "reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination".

### 3. The Pattern of Collective Worship:

Our school pattern for collective Act of worship

Mondays:	Whole School	9.15 - 9.30	Led by Headteacher/designated Teacher
Tuesdays:	Infants Juniors (own class)		Led by class teacher - rota time arranged by class teacher
Wednesdays:	Whole School	9.45 - 10.00	Led by Headteacher/designated teacher - rota
Thursdays:	Individual Classes		time arranged by class teachers
Fridays:	Whole School	9.15 - 9.45	Led by Headteacher/Senior teacher

\*\* Note: details of acts of collective worship are noted on appropriate record sheets.

In class acts of collective worship, teachers will follow the themes which have been agreed, and for which there is a termly plan.

The school's Co-ordinator for Collective Worship is Mrs. Rachel Critchell, who is responsible for the resources, maintaining the school records of collective worship, distributing the agreed termly planning sheets, and ensuring regular evaluating of the process.

### 4. The Aims of Collective Worship:

At Ysgol Brynffordd the aims for collective worship are to:

- Foster a sense of community, and providing the opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- Enrich the lives of all present by exploring, extending, sharing and deepening individual experiences and beliefs~
- Enable the sharing of common emotions (such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear, forgiveness, reverence)
- Provide moments of awe and wonder, for truth, and for the harsher realities of life
- Allow for the expressing of humility, weariness, worry, and sorrow, and to encourage the development of sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others
- Provide stimulus and opportunity for silent reflection, inner response, and active participation.
- Help children to understand the language and nature of worship, and to explore their own beliefs, in relation to those of others
- Contribute towards spiritual and moral development.

Songs and hymns are sung regularly and the school uses "Hymnbook", supplemented from time to time with other songs as appropriate to the theme or particular service/occasion.

Stories and readings from the Bible are also used regularly, and such material is in addition to work in Religious Education which may also draw upon such passages.

There may be times when reference is made to the festivals and/or beliefs and practices of religious other than Christianity - but in accordance with statutory requirements these would form a minority of acts of worship in anyone term or year.

Prayers are said, by teachers and pupils leading acts of collective worship, and sometimes pupils are invited to participate in prayers that have been learnt.

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere, music or some visual focus if provided during the entry into the hall. Teachers are also encouraged to have a clear indication of special time or focus in class acts of worship.

Visitors from churches and chapels, and possibly other religious communities, are invited to lead acts of collective worship, as are members and representatives of the community. In all cases, visitors will be

shown this policy statement and informed of the non-denominational and collective, rather than corporate, nature of the event.

The school recognises the distinction between 'assembly' and 'collective worship'. Where these are held at the same time, a clear demarcation is made between one and the other. On occasion, a special 'assembly' will be held where there are serious or disciplinary matters that would detract from or tend to spoil the atmosphere of the collective worship.

In accordance with the legal requirements, parents who may wish to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship are asked to discuss their concerns, and the practical implications of withdrawal, with the headteacher.

Likewise, any teacher who wishes to withdraw from the supervising or leading of acts of collective worship, should discuss the matter fully with the headteacher.

The withdrawal of children from collective worship for extra reading, number work, or extra-curricular activities is positively discouraged; it is however agreed, that from time to time individual teachers may not be present in the hall collective worship when particular preparations are needing to be completed.