



Ysgol Uwchradd
Prestatyn
High School

Collective Worship Policy

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Collective worship policy

Definition

Collective worship is designed to give daily space for pupils to reflect on issues of faith, and explore beliefs.

Rationale

Schools are required by the Welsh government to provide “a statutory requirement for an act of collective worship of a broadly Christian character in all state schools” (Faith in Education, Welsh Government 2011). At Prestatyn High School we aim to provide this requirement for all pupils in year 7-11 in line with Welsh government guidelines.

Purpose and Principles

Welsh Government circular 10/94 describes collective worship within schools in the following terms.

“Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitude.”

The purpose of collective worship is not to impose one belief system on pupils, or to convert them to a religion, but to give time and space to reflect upon themes of a divine nature, personal belief and ultimate questions.

At PHS we seek to actively involve pupils in the daily act of collective worship, as Estyn note passive attendance at collective worship does not satisfy the guidelines for inspection of such.

Organisation and delivery

Collective worship at Prestatyn High is administered through the daily ‘thought for the week’ programme:

- Group tutors are expected to give time in registration for reflection on the thought for the week.
- With each thought for the week there is a religious text and a quote which can be used to aid reflection.
- Where pupils are in assemblies thought for the day is superseded by the assembly which will fulfil the daily act of collective worship.
- An on site prayer room allows pupils to pray in peace. This has been checked by the local mosque for our Muslim pupils.

Each yeargroup generally attends one assembly per week with either their Head of Year or other speaker:

- assemblies will be broadly Christian in nature;

- they will offer time to reflect on a variety of themes;
- where possible assemblies will include something specifically religious in nature e.g. a religious teaching or example;

External speakers: External speakers including members of faith communities may be invited to come and lead assemblies. Faith input may be particularly sought around the time of Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter. Annually the Gideons International charity will visit the school to give out copies of the New Testament and Psalms to year 7. Higher a Christian organisation deliver workshops to year 7-9 and provide extra-curricular activities.

Right to withdraw: The Education act 1988 gives parents the right to withdraw a pupil from collective worship. In order to do so, the parent is required to write to the headteacher to request that the pupil be withdrawn. If a staff member feels unable to deliver the daily act of collective worship they are required to put this in writing to the headteacher. The school is required to provide alternative arrangements for the pupils to access collective worship and will do so through the house system.

6th Form students: The Education and Inspections bill 2006, which came into force in Wales in 2009 allows 6th Form students to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship.

Responsibilities

Delivery of collective worship is the responsibility of all staff within the school, specifically group tutors and heads of learning. It is co-ordinated by a member of SLT (June 2018 CLT/ARH) who is responsible for: monitoring and evaluating the provision of collective worship and arranging assemblies.

Monitoring and evaluation

Thought for the week programme will be monitored annually by the member of SLT with oversight of collective worship. Assemblies will be peer monitored by members of the SLT who lead assemblies, and the headteacher.