

# Prendergast Community Primary School



"Believe and Achieve"

## Collective Worship Policy

*Ready, Respectful, Safe*

# Prendergast Community Primary School Policy for Collective Worship

## **Introduction**

Prendergast Community Primary School believes that assemblies are fundamental in promoting the ethos of the school and providing children with an opportunity for collective reflection and the consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) issues.

## **Collective Worship Legislation**

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Welsh Office circular 10/94 set out the legal requirements for collective worship in schools in Wales. These requirements apply to pupils in maintained schools other than special schools. The requirements do not apply to colleges of further education or to nursery schools or nursery classes in infant or primary schools.

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, and
- Collective worship should take into account of the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.

There is no legal requirement to provide collective worship for pupils aged under five.

## **Principles**

- Assemblies should be inclusive, appropriate and relevant to all of the children at Prendergast Community Primary School regardless of the personal commitment or life-stance
- Assemblies should be educational, with curricular links and suitable to the children's ages, aptitudes and backgrounds
- Assemblies should contribute to the religious education of all pupils
- Whenever possible, assemblies should have a sense of occasion.

## **Aims**

- To be inclusive – all children should gain something from the experience
- To foster a sense of fellowship, bringing pupils together
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so
- To encourage pupils in a reflective approach to life
- To increase sensitivity towards and awareness of, the search for meaning in life, and
- To introduce pupils to various aspects (prayer, hymn, drama, art) of worship in an open and honest way.

## **Spiritual Development**

For worship to contribute to the spiritual development of Prendergast Community Primary School children we aim:-

- To celebrate all that is good and wonderful about life
- To provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the happy and sad aspects of life
- To give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space, and
- To invite (never coerce) a response from the children which is appropriate to the occasion

### **Withdrawal**

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.

### **Collective worship content**

Collective worship in schools can take a number of forms. Pupils may take some or all of the lead. Some of the appropriate components of collective worship are outlined in the box below, but this should not be regarded as an exhaustive list. An act of collective worship may incorporate one or more of these components.

Reflection	Children may be encouraged to listen to, watch or reflect on an appropriate stimulus such as a reading, a dance, a drama sketch, a dance, a video, a song, music, an artefact, a poem, a story, a news article, a photograph, a picture, a prayer, a question, a ritual or a presentation/talk from a member of staff or a visiting speaker
Prayer	Children may be encouraged to say a prayer aloud together or to pray individually in silence
Song	Children may be encouraged to sing a hymn or other worship song together
Reading	Children may be encouraged to read an extract from the Bible, other religious writing or a 'thought of the day'

## Assembly organisation at Prendergast Community Primary School

The school considers it important that as many members of staff as possible should contribute to or lead collective worship on a rotational basis.

The school makes use of such visitors as local clergy, representatives of other faiths and organisations, governors and parents to participate in assemblies.

Children can be in different group settings for collective worship. These can be whole school, key stage or class.

On special occasions children will visit the local church.

In Prendergast assembly/collective worship begins in a quiet and orderly way. It is generally understood that children and staff (as good role models) will not speak as they enter or leave the hall.

During this time music is played.

Children sit in class lines for assemblies.

Prayers and periods of silence will take place.

Hymns and songs will be sung where appropriate.

Most assemblies begin at 10.00

Day	Assembly	Focus
Monday	Foundation Phase KS2	Seren cymreag
Tuesday	Foundation Phase KS2	
Wednesday	Class based assemblies - Circle time	
Thursday	Whole school	
Friday	Whole school	

### Monitoring

The Headteacher will run a programme of quality assurance for the assemblies

The Governing Body will review this policy every three years and will make it available to parents if required.

### Resources

Our assemblies respond to themes and issues that inspire us. These can be local, national current issues.