

Policy on Collective Worship



Ysgol Y Graig Primary School is a happy and caring school at the heart of our community.

Vision Statement

The community of Ysgol Y Graig Primary School thrives in a stimulating, caring environment with high expectations and standards where everyone is encouraged to develop their special abilities.

Mission Statement

At Ysgol Y Graig Primary School we aim to **develop pupils' active and creative minds, by developing a sense of understanding and belonging. We encourage the total development of each child: spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical. As a community we work together to achieve the following values and aims**

In order to fulfil our vision we will strive to bring out the best from each child and provide opportunities for success for every one of them. We will provide a high standard of education and equip our children with the necessary skills to enable them to become confident, independent and lifelong learners. We will ensure all staff are well trained and are able to motivate and inspire our learners to believe and achieve.

The aims of our school curriculum are:

We aim to:

- Treat everyone with respect
- Develop pride and understanding of the Welsh language, culture and heritage
- Encourage our children to be aware of their rights and responsibilities and how their actions affect others locally and globally
- To welcome, support and value individuals who are part of the school
- Maximise opportunities to prepare our children for lifelong learning
- Ensure all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum developing the skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT, thus enabling them to reach their full potential
- Model our teaching and learning methods and school organisation to the needs of the pupils, not vice versa.
- Appreciate that school is one part of life's jigsaw.
- Through our school's Eco code provide experiences which enable our pupils to care, use and respect the school environment, local community and world at large.
- Value and respect the history and culture of our ever growing and diverse community.
- Develop and encourage the use of emerging technologies in all aspects of school life so that all learners gain the skills and knowledge needed to use technology throughout life.
- Work in partnership with parents, carers, community and outside agencies to provide the best learning opportunities possible.

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming

together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly (normally taken during the afternoon), which can be either a department assembly (Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2), whole-school assembly or a class assembly.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The assemblies are conducted by the Headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and SEAL (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning), and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. In addition, the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or national and global events / issues. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5 Our celebration assemblies (weekly) reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Ysgol Y Graig Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.6 Throughout the year there are particular assemblies that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community

spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.