

Policy Statement

At Priory Church in Wales school, the act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of our school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

‘Celebrating Creativity, Imagination and Belief’.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

All pupils attending Priory CiW School, regardless of age, gender, colour and creed or ability shall take part in a daily act of collective worship which brings together the whole ethos of our school, its atmosphere, the quality relationships, its values and attitudes and reinforces its richness. We promote a caring Christian community in which all individuals matter.

This document provides a statement of the school aims with regard to Collective Worship. It is a document consistent with the requirements of the Education Reform Act.

Aims

We aim to bring pupils together to participate in the experiences of the immediate and wider community:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to give thanks, reflect and discuss issues that are relevant to us all ;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature;
- share together emotions such as love, trust, loyalty, friendship, selfishness, forgiveness, patience, responsibility, confidence, happiness, help, tolerance, joy, delight, valuing oneself and to celebrate in the excitement and beauty of life and living;
- to provide moments of awe and wonder, for truth and for facing the harsher realities of life;
- give opportunity to express humility, weariness, worry or admission of a need;
- allow positive reflection on success and failure in an open, honest and sensitive climate;

- to develop pupil awareness and understanding of the cultural traditions of Wales and other world cultures;
- encourage expressions of determination to do ones best;
- create an atmosphere in which one has the opportunity for silent reflection, repose, inner response and active participation;
- to develop a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective Worship at Priory Church in Wales School is carefully planned with meaningful arrangements. We make positive use of relevant displays and artefacts to promote interest and understanding.

We use poetry, music, artwork and drama for learning to help develop a sense of beauty and awe and wonder of the world.

The act of Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis, whether in the hall, classroom or in the Peace Garden with all the children, individual classes or small groups of pupils. Matters discussed and reflected upon could be issues brought up in the news, P4C topics, points of view raised through Mantle of the Expert adventures or reflecting the church calendar. The school also visits Brecon Cathedral to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Families and friends are invited to join us.

Our time for Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We provide time for pupils to reflect on Bible stories and explore their personal feelings and experiences through prayers and poetry.

Pattern of Collective Worship at Priory Church in Wales School (subject to change)

Monday – Singing Assembly led by SH or Welsh assembly

Tuesday – Whole School Worship led by CP – biblical themed

Wednesday – Whole School Worship led by CP – Christian value based/topical/significant events

Thursday – Cathedral/Class worship at the end of a term the whole school will attend the Cathedral for an end of term service

Friday – Celebration Assembly

Our Collective Worship usually takes the form:

Pre story questions

Story/Discussion

Post story questions – active pupil participation Time for reflection – 2 minutes, sit quietly and think Song – linked to “theme”

Prayer – Pupil/Whole school

ALN

Activities and stories are planned in such a way as to encourage full and active participation by all children irrespective of ability.

Equal Opportunities

Equality is always observed with positive attitudes being developed, regardless of gender, race or cultural background

ICT

Wherever possible ICT will be used to support Collective Worship

Curriculum Cymraeg

Collective Worship allows us to improve the standards of pupils awareness and understanding of the cultural traditions of Wales. We incorporate Welsh hymns, poems and prayers where appropriate. We celebrate St Davids day. The Criw Cymraeg lead a monthly/termly Welsh worship.

Health and Safety

Children are continually encouraged to be aware of their own safety and the safety of others. We place emphasis on each individual learning to respect themselves incorporating moral values.

Implementation

It is the responsibility of the whole staff to implement the document. Our acts of worship are Christian in character and other religions are viewed from a Christian perspective.

The right of withdrawal.

At Priory CiW Primary School we believe that the act of Collective Worship is a central part of the life of our school and would therefore hope that all parents would wish their children to attend. If parents however decide to exercise their legal rights to withdraw their child the school will seek to ensure that they are adequately supervised, have something purposeful to do and that they are not made to feel unduly isolated and ‘different’.