



BURLAIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

We believe that in our daily collective worship when all members of the school come together, we try to create an occasion which produces a variety of responses, one of which is worship. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

We acknowledge the 1988 Education Reform Act which clearly states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Therefore, we base all our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church.

However, we believe we must conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Therefore, throughout the academic year we will hold assemblies that reflect other religions as we want all children to feel included whatever their beliefs or background.

We would like everyone to take an active part in our collective worship but we are aware that teachers have the right to withdraw from the religious element of collective worship. We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We acknowledge that children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. We will ensure that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Our Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to participate in an act of worship
- 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
- To encourage children to respond to the worship offered

Organisation of Collective Worship at Burlais Primary School

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which may comprise of a whole school assembly, separate Infant and Junior assemblies or class based assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes pictures or other objects to act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of religious groups are invited to conduct them.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also ensure that our assemblies reflect Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig. We link our Values Education to our assembly plan and each month we focus on a different value. When planning assemblies throughout the year we also think carefully about the inclusion of the following:-

- Celebration days and holidays
- Saint Days
- World Faiths
- School Events
- National Events
- World Events
- Charity Events
- Current Themes
- ESDGC Themes

We also believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to other children and sharing what they have learnt in class through class assemblies.

Assemblies also offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and outside school. Each week we hold a "Silver Star Assembly" where achievements and individual attainments are recognised.

We recognise that "Silver Star Assembly" plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Parents are invited to attend their child's class assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Governors are welcome to attend assemblies at any time.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend the daily collective act of worship and assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Prospectus
- the school website
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as newsletters and we site
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body

Monitoring and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school by all members of staff.

Policy Reviewed: September 2024