



Collective Worship Policy (v2)

January 2023

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____

Beliefs and Values

At Melin Primary School we have high expectations that encourage good habits, promote ambition and positive attitudes to learning. This will enable the children to grow to be literate, numerate, digitally competent and independent life-long learners. They will be happy, healthy, safe and contribute creatively and ethically to their community, Wales and the world.

The Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) seeks to awaken a sense of wonder, fire the imagination and inspire learners to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Our collective worship forms a key part of our work in this area of learning and experience.

Melin Primary School respects the Rights of the Child and firmly believes that it contributes positively to both the four purposes of our curriculum, but also our vision as a school. This policy supports these aims through the following rights:

- Article 1 Everyone under 18 has all these rights.
- Article 3 All adults should always do what is best for you.
- Article 8 You have the right to an identity.
- Article 12 You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.
- Article 14 You have the right to think what you like and be whatever religion you want to be, with your parents' guidance.
- Article 17 You have the right to collect information from the media – radios, newspapers, television, etc – from all around the world.
- Article 28 You have the right to education.
- Article 29 You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment
- Article 30 If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practise your own religion, and use your own language.

Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the 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.

Collective Worship

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.

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 traditions in the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. We conduct acts of worship and 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

The Headteacher, deputy headteacher or members of teaching staff normally conduct assemblies, with regular contributions from local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

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. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics from the SEAL PSE scheme that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school including the Welsh dimension, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We also use schemes to reward attendance, growth mindset and positive contributions towards the life of the individual, class or school.

Certificates and prizes for good attendance, achievement in reading, spelling, numeracy and attendance of courses, events etc. are awarded in assembly. Similarly, children are encouraged to bring in out-of-school awards and certificates.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend 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.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of self-evaluation procedures or changes to statutory Curriculum orders, whichever is sooner.

T. Richards

January 2023