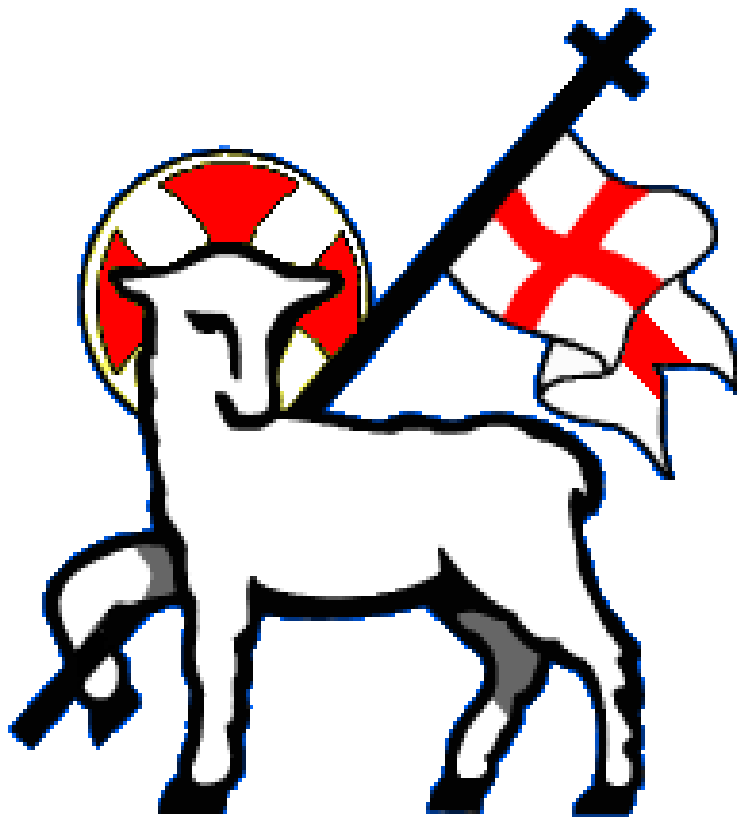


*St. John Baptist Church in Wales High School*



WORSHIP POLICY

Signed by Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body.....

Signed by Headteacher.....

## **POLICY ON WORSHIP**

Our school motto, mission statement reflect our lives in school

### **School Motto**

**Our Future through Faith**

### **Values**

**Faith and belief**

**Care and compassion**

**Respect and tolerance**

**Responsibility and trust**

**Aspiration and success**

### **Mission Statement**

**To enrich pupils' lives through faith, opportunities and high quality  
education  
within our caring, supportive Christian environment**

Worship is at the centre of everything we do as a school- from where we get our inspiration, commitment and direction. As a result Governors' Meetings, Friends' meetings, Leadership Group and staff meetings all begin with prayer. Other occasions also, such as New Parents' Intake Evening, Governors report to parents etc all begin with worship.

The Headteacher, eleven members of the teaching staff and six students have been licensed by The Bishop of Llandaff to administer the chalice at school Eucharist Services.

Every member of staff in St. John's is asked and agrees to be supportive of the distinctive Christian ethos of the school. One way in which this distinctive Christian ethos is achieved and developed is through worship. Every member appointed to the teaching staff agrees to participate in, plan and deliver a daily act of worship.

There is time set aside during each school day for at least one act of collective worship. Such worship may take the form of assembly, form prayers, Eucharist services, church services and prayers.

The venue for collective worship could be local churches, The Cathedral, school hall/sports hall/gym, classroom, school yard or any other venue deemed suitable for such worship.

Wherever the worship takes place it is important the area is safe, tidy and welcoming and effort is made to enhance the quality of that worship.

### **Collective worship**

All acts of worship provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God and our Lord Jesus, and allows them to develop spiritually. Such worship allows pupils to reflect and contribute to their religious growth as well as encourage their moral, social and cultural development.

There are opportunities for cross curricular themes to be incorporated into collective worship as staff from all curriculum areas are involved in delivering assemblies and form prayers and may use their expertise and curriculum areas as well as their personal interests where appropriate.

Collective worship may vary in style – it may be lively, interactive, loud and with movement or quiet, reflective and meditative.

Pupils are involved in collective worship as well as members of staff and are encouraged to take an active role. Pupils may read Bible passages, lead intercessions, write prayers as well as recite poetry, sing and play musical instruments. Music plays a large part in collective worship. Music may be Christian or non- Christian, classical, traditional, modern and contemporary.

The talents of staff and pupils are used in many and various such as welcomers, by writing prayers or using their IT skills. Collective worship will enable learners and teachers to use a variety of stimuli- music, icons, pictures, news items, images, visual and aural stimuli, cross and crucifix, candles, light as well as other stimuli.

Some acts of worship include the use of Welsh e.g. a Welsh hymn, The Lord's Prayer, responses to the intercessions. Collective worship also contributes to Curriculum Cymraeg e.g. Saints of Wales, stories of Wales, the teachings of the Church in Wales and the clergy of The Church in Wales.

Worship will also include the EDSCG requirements through topics such as God's Creation, God's world and caring for it, Remembrance Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving, Epiphany as well as themes such as poverty, war and homelessness.

Pupils should be given the opportunity to think about their own lives, behaviour and wrong doings and have the chance to say sorry and ask for forgiveness as well as receive guidance, reassurance and inspiration. These acts of worship will challenge people to reflect and act on their own lives so must be relevant to them and their situation.

Worship should allow pupils to think of others, pray for the needs of others- family, friends and school, the locality as well as the world at large.

Collective worship is fully inclusive and allows for all pupils to be included. This includes pupils of other denominations as well as ALN and MAT pupils and Specially Gifted and Talented pupils.

Such acts of worship will also allow school to celebrate the successes of pupils and such successes may be incorporated in the acts of worship itself.

Members of the local clergy regularly attend and lead acts of worship. Governors also attend services with pupils.

## **Assemblies**

Assemblies are conducted daily unless a Eucharist service is being held. In St. John's, assemblies may be delivered and led by the Head teacher, the Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers, Learning Manager and members of the teaching staff.

Form Tutors participate with his/her form in the worship- in the planning, organising and delivering of it.

At the beginning of each academic year staff are given a copy of the assembly rota for the year. The assembly rota is organised in such a way that every class in school has the opportunity to deliver an assembly. The rota also allows the Headteacher and other members of the leadership group to lead such worship.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Years 7 & 8	Years 9&10	Years 11, 12 & 13	Eucharist	Years 7-13 on rotation

This may change when the need arises.

Themes for assemblies are distributed to staff at the beginning of each term. Although these themes are guidelines only, they are based on the themes of The Church in Wales. There is a half termly value based on the school values.

Assemblies will allow pupils to develop their skills, eg communication, working with others skills.

## **Form Prayers:**

If pupils are not attending a collective act of worship with other forms they will have a short act of worship in their own classroom or another appropriate venue. This worship is organised by the Form Tutor although may be planned and delivered by themselves or pupils. If for some reason pupils leave registration or do not attend assembly in order to attend a school organised activity, it is the duty of the member of staff responsible for the activity to organise prayers.

There are resources in school to assist Form Tutors. All Form Tutors are provided with a copy of the Form Prayer Handbook which is constantly updated and added to. This contains

actual acts of worship suitable for such worship, prayers on many subjects relevant to pupils and appropriate Bible Readings as well as advice on leading such prayers.

Form prayers are produced on a weekly basis and are available for Form Tutors to use directly from All Staff.

Staff are also issued with guidance from the Church in Wales about festivals during the church year to use within form period.

The Assistant Headteacher – worship, also leads staff training on worship. He is also available for advice, guidance and help at other times.

Worship is monitored regularly by the Headteacher and the Leadership Group.

### **Eucharist and Other Church Services**

Eucharist services are held at the beginning and end of every academic term as well as on festivals such as Ascension Day, The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Epiphany, All Saints Day or The Saints of Wales. Non sacramental church services will also be held on occasions such as Maundy Thursday and Ash Wednesday.

In addition weekly Eucharist services are held in the school hall. Staff, who are teaching pupils involved in such services attend the services with their pupils. These services provide pupils to experience different traditions within the Anglican Communion and within The Church in Wales. Clergy are invited by school to celebrate and preach at these services.

Eucharist services are celebrated by local clergy or other members of the clergy who have been invited by school to do so.

Pupils and staff participate in services by reading Bible Passages, leading intercessions as well as performing as servers, cantors or musicians.

Pupils are also encouraged to attend services outside of their school environment. St. John's also accepts invitation from the diocese to participate in, and lead, acts of worship elsewhere in the diocese e.g. Maundy Thursday, Diocesan Conference and Llandaff Diocese Board for Social Responsibility Services. Pupils are also encouraged to attend and participate in Diocesan Youth Events.