

St. John Baptist Church in Wales High School



WORSHIP POLICY

POLICY ON WORSHIP

Our school motto, mission statement reflect our lives in school:

School Motto

Out 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 out caring, supportive Christian environment.

Policy on worship

At St. John's it is essential we strive to fulfil pupils' academic potential but just as important we fulfil their spiritual aspect. Worship is one way in which we achieve that aim.

The Mission statement of the school is "To enrich pupils' lives through faith, opportunities and high quality education within our caring, supportive Christian environment." One of the ways in which pupils find an inner spiritual life that provides them with proper moral values is through worship.

The responsibility for worship lies with the Head teacher. Within the structure of the school there is an Assistant Headteacher of Worship who, with the Head teacher, is responsible for organising and co-ordinating worship. The Assistant Headteacher also works closely with the curriculum area of music whose advice and expertise is extremely important and contributes to the quality of worship. The curriculum area of music works with not only the assistant Headteacher of worship but also with the head teacher, clergy and governors.

In a Faith school it is also a moral obligation on the school for pupils to be involved in a daily act of worship. In St. John's this act of worship must be Christian in character and based on the teachings of the Church in Wales. However, it is essential that acts of worship are inclusive and allow members of other denominations to feel welcome, secure and fulfilled by such worship.

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

The Headteacher and members of the teaching staff 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.

Collective 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;
House Assemblies;
Form Prayers;
Eucharist service;
Other church services; or
Prayers

On occasions there may be more than one act of worship-e.g. Armistice Day.

The venue for collective worship could be:

Local churches;
The Cathedral;
School Hall/ Sports Hall/ Gym;
Classroom;
School yard;
School chapel;

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. In addition to this daily act of worship around the school are quiet areas of spiritual focus where pupils can spend time for personal reflection and prayer.

Collective worship

All acts of worship must provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God and our Lord Jesus, and allow them to develop spiritually. Such worship must allow 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 noisy, 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 perform dance and drama, 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 ways- as welcomers, by writing prayers, 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.

Acts of worship should also include the use of Welsh e.g. a Welsh hymn, The Lord's Prayer, The Grace, 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 also covers 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 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 pupils with ALN and more able 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.

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, members of the Leadership Group any member of staff along with local clergy and other priests are asked to lead assemblies.

Any visitor who is invited or requests to lead worship must be granted the permission of the Head teacher.

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, Senior Leadership team, Co-ordinator of Worship, Heads of Year and other members of the Leadership Group and all members of the teaching staff. Form tutors are asked to participate with their class in such acts of worship

The Form Tutor are asked to participate with his/her form in the worship- in the planning, organizing 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. The rota of assemblies are as follows:

Monday	Years 7 and 8
Tuesday	Years 9 and 10
Wednesday	Years 11,12 and 13
Thursday	Weekly Eucharist Services
Friday	Year group assembly on rotation

Please note this can and will be changed by the Headteacher 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.

Again it is essential these assemblies provide opportunities for the pupils to have an input into such worship. It is pupils who should be choosing worship which is relevant and meaningful to them. Assemblies will allow pupils to develop their skills of communication, working with others and many other of the Wider Key skills. The successes of pupils may be incorporated in the worship of the school.

The co-ordinator of worship and the staff of the RVE Department are available for advice, guidance and help. However, assemblies, as with all Collective worship, also provide pupils to take responsibility for their own learning, and to increase their knowledge.

As with all acts of worship they must include Welsh, Curriculum Cymraeg etc. and deal with issues such as PSHE and the situation in the world at large.

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 organized by the Form Tutor although may be planned and delivered by themselves or pupils. Again if for some reason pupils leave registration or do not attend assembly in order to attend a school organized activity e.g. Literacy and Numeracy work or interventions etc. 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. Members of the Leadership team and extended Leadership team create weekly worship slides for Form Tutors to use during registration time. These include a theme, Bible reading, reflection task, video and hymn. All Form Tutors are provided with a copy of the Form Prayer Handbook which will be 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.

There is a Bible in every classroom which can be used for the individual members of staff to use for their own purpose as well as to facilitate Form Prayers.

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

At Form Prayers the atmosphere must be set, the surroundings suitable and pupils must be prepared for such worship. Here images and stimuli are just as useful and helpful in worship as at whole school worship or Assemblies. Form Prayers will be monitored regularly by The Head teacher, Leadership Group, Co-ordinator of worship, and on occasions by the link governor for worship.

Eucharist and Other Church Services

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

We also organise Lent and Advent worship for the school community which lead into the major festivals of Easter and Christmas. The whole school community are also involved in the annual carol service and prize giving ceremony.

In addition weekly Eucharist services are held in The School Hall, although on occasions the venue may be changed. Again it is compulsory for staff, who are teaching pupils involved in such services, to 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 such 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 and Diocesan Conference Services. Pupils are also encouraged to attend and participate in Diocesan Youth Events.