



WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

DATE REVIEWED: **March 2023**

DATE FOR REVIEW: **March 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J E Baker', written over a horizontal line.

SIGNED _____ **Date:** 27/04/2023
Chair of Governing Body

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jones', written over a horizontal line.

SIGNED _____ **Date:** 27/04/2023
HeadTeacher

Welshpool High School Collective Worship Policy

The collective worship policy at Welshpool High School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it helps shape our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship in Welshpool High School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity
- develop a reflective approach to living which encourages an understanding of others
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values that are broadly Christian in nature
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every pupil not withdrawn by their parents (post 16 pupils can withdraw themselves) every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions (e.g. delivered virtually), with agreement of governors

Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject, including religious education. However, in Welshpool High School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of pupil's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is delivered:

- In year group assemblies, and upper/lower school assemblies.
- Through the 'Thought for the day' delivered in tutor group registration time.
- By stand-alone events, guest speakers, trips, etc.

Assemblies:

Each year group has a year assembly once a week. Pupils in KS3 attend one lower school assembly in Theatre Clera each week. Pupils in KS4 attend two upper school assemblies in Theatre Clera each week. The assembly rota is outlined in the staff handbook.

Assemblies are delivered by a variety of people, including Senior Staff; Heads of Year; Tutors; Visitors; Pupils; etc. Assemblies will often contain a reading for reflection, and conclude with a prayer.

‘Thought for the Day’:

An electronic booklet is given to Tutors, listing the ‘Thought for the Day’. When pupils do not have assemblies they remain in their form rooms and participate in discussions concerning the ‘Thought for the Day’.

During certain times of the year the ‘Thought for the Day’ is linked to school based, national or international events. Local and national celebrations will also provide a stimulus some of the worships, activities, discussions or reflections.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths.

Visitors are invited to lead collective worship from time to time, and leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils’ awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of followers who belong to these faiths.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff (and pupils in the sixth form) are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship. We are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are supervised by a member of the school’s staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children who are withdrawn.