

Collective Worship Policy



Learning together in a changing world, creating success for all.

TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL and RESOURCE CENTRE

Policy for Collective Worship

Trinity Fields is a Rights Respecting School, a Healthy School, Investors in Families School, an ECO School, a MOVE school and an Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Flagship School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our pupil friendly and adult version of our “**Shared Values and Aims**”.

School context

Trinity Fields is a **Rights Respecting School**; we are committed to the principles and values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across all areas of our work. We are a school where pupils are at the heart of everything we do. We successfully achieved UNICEF’s “Rights Respecting School Award” in **January 2017** and we have a well-established record of developing pupil engagement at all levels.

Refer to pupil friendly “**Pupil Participation**” policy and our whole school “**Pupil Participation**” policy for further details.

We are a **Healthy School**; we take responsibility for maintaining and promoting the health and wellbeing of the Trinity Fields team (pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors etc.). This includes teaching pupils about how to lead healthy lives by enabling them and staff to take control over aspects of the school environment that influence their health and wellbeing. We achieved the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes National Quality Award in **March 2018, with re-accreditation in December 2020**.

Refer to “**Health and Well-being for Pupils**” policy and our whole school “**Health and Well-being**” policy for further details.

We are an **Investors in Families School**. We are committed to developing active and effective relationships with parents/carers and families and recognise the value of close partnership working to improve outcomes for our pupils. We were the first Special School in Wales to achieve the Investors in Families Quality Mark, and regularly share our excellent practices with other settings.

We demonstrate our commitment to the Rights to Action agenda and value and support the important role that families play in the education of their child. We strive to promote social inclusion and a sense of wellbeing for families through positive participation in their child’s education.

During the re-accreditation process (2019), the school’s work was judged to be of a very high quality. Family and Community Engagement are fully embedded and it was evident that the school works hard on its journey towards excellence. The assessor was very pleased to award the school the **Diamond Standard**.

We have demonstrated through a national annual assessment that we have the capacity to play a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools; as well as being committed to extending those networks and develop classroom-based research.

Refer to “**Inclusion**” policy and to **IQM assessment reports** for further details.

In **summer 2022** we gained our **Platinum ECO Schools Award**; the Eco-Schools programme is designed to be pupil-led and looks at the impact of our actions on the environment.

Our sustained journey towards attaining the Platinum Award showcases pupils' ideas and helps to inspire others to make the right environmental choices.

More recently (2019), the school started its journey towards becoming a **MOVE school**; successfully accredited at Silver level in **December 2021**. The MOVE Programme is an activity-based practice that enables children and young people with physical disabilities to sit, stand, walk, and transition as independently as possible.

Our overarching philosophy is summarised in the following statement:

“We believe that everyone at Trinity Fields is entitled to have access to the very best learning experiences. These will be provided within a safe, caring and stimulating environment that will enable all learners to achieve their full potential through learning opportunities that meet their individual needs”.

Education in Wales: Our National Mission

Our work with pupils and their families will be developed building upon Wales' National Mission. This national mission is ambitious, innovative and confident ensuring that we all take responsibility for all of our pupils to have equal opportunities to reach the highest possible standards.

Trinity Fields will continue to develop as a learning organisation to ensure it has the capacity to adapt to and explore a range of new approaches which results in improved outcomes and well-being for all of our pupils.

In order to realise our shared vision and approaches in delivering Wales' transformational curriculum that will enable all of the pupils at Trinity Fields to make the progress commensurate with their individual needs we are committed to the 4 key enabling objectives, detailed in **“Education in Wales: Our national mission (2017)**. These are:

- **Developing a high-quality education profession.**
- **Inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards.**
- **Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellent, equity and well-being.**
- **Robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system.**

The core purposes and values that are associated with these prestigious national awards are encapsulated in our vision and aims:

“We believe that everyone at Trinity Fields is entitled to have access to the very best learning opportunities. These will be provided within a safe, caring and stimulating environment that will enable all learners to achieve their full potential through learning opportunities that meet their individual needs”.

Rationale

The Governing Body of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre accepts the statutory obligations as outlined in the 1988 Education Reform Act, along with the updated recommendations of the 1993 Education Act that:

“Every pupil attending a special school will as far as is practicable take part in a daily Act of Collective Worship. It is accepted that the worship can take place at any time during the

school day and for this purpose pupils can be grouped in various ways, as a whole school, according to age or in teaching or year group”.

It is further understood that:

“Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the Act of Worship”.

And that:

“The daily Act of Collective Worship must take place on the school premises and the nature of the Act should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. The worship must be appropriate for the pupils taking into account their ages, aptitudes and abilities.”

Our Collective Act of Worship policy reflects the ethos and inclusive spirit of Trinity Fields and makes a significant contribution to our Rights Respecting vision and aims.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is the time set aside from other aspects of school life when pupils (and staff) are given opportunities to learn and reflect on a variety of issues (both in the present and the past), which may stimulate “worshipful responses”.

Aims of Collective Worship

All pupils (and staff) should be able to take part in our daily Act of Collective Worship. This may be whole school (end of day reflection), departmental or class based (Monday and Friday mornings). Our approach to Collective Worship is open and inclusive whilst giving due regard to Christian beliefs and practice in line with legislation.

Our daily end of day reflections are led by classes/pupils on a rota basis.

We aim to provide all pupils with opportunities to:

- Come together as a class/whole school community.
- Experience activities, stories, poems, songs, music etc. which help to reflect on the spiritual and moral dimensions of life.
- Encourage values such as honesty, fairness, respect, right and wrong etc.
- Experience feelings associated with worship such as awe, wonder, joy, happiness, thankfulness, appreciation etc.
- Enable our pupils and staff to experience stillness and silence, and where possible, to develop the skills required for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- Ask questions (where appropriate), possibly allowing some of our more able and talented pupils to begin to develop their own opinions and beliefs.
- Provide experiences which will enable pupils (wherever possible) to begin to understand and appreciate the use of symbolisms and religious language.
- Celebrate a range of Christian and other celebrations from other faith groups.

Organisation of Collective Worship at Trinity Fields School

Day	Act of Worship	Group	Leader
Monday (AM)	Themed assembly	Departmental	Classes on rota basis
(PM)	End of day reflection	Whole school	Classes on rota basis
Tuesday (PM)	End of day reflection	Whole school	Classes on rota basis
Wednesday (PM)	End of day reflection	Whole school	Classes on rota basis
Thursday (PM)	End of day reflection	Whole school	Classes on rota basis
Friday (AM)	Star awards	Departmental	AHT
(PM)	End of day reflection	Classes	Classes on rota basis

Assemblies are planned on a termly basis, with themes being linked to seasons, special events and the UNCRC articles, alongside Rights Respecting Schools. The deputy headteacher supported by the assistant headteachers and the Team leader for the School Curriculum Phase co-ordinate our whole school approach to Collective Worship. Planning is saved in the "School Assemblies" folder on the "O" drive.

In addition to the weekly programme special services/events are planned throughout the school which include visits to Holy Trinity Church to celebrate harvest, Christmas and Easter. We also celebrate a range of other festivals such as Diwali, Advent, Saint David's Day, etc.

Wherever possible pupils are encouraged to take an active role in all assemblies; this may involve reading the school prayer, playing instruments, singing, dramatizing a story, sharing work and learning experiences etc.

Local clergy/religious leaders are also invited into school to lead assemblies and special services. We have developed strong partnership links with Father Steven Kirk (Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach) and John Stark and Kingsley Layton from the Salvation Army. In addition to this staff, friends, charity workers etc. are also invited to contribute to our assemblies and other special services and events; for example our annual Macmillan Coffee Mornings.

The atmosphere created in our assemblies is vital in order to create a distinctly "spiritual" feeling which is markedly different from all other school activities. The use of background music, pictures, photographs, artefacts, battery operated candles etc. help to create such an atmosphere.

Contribution of Collective worship to other areas of learning and experience (AoLE)

Collective worship plays a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; linking closely with the humanities and health and wellbeing Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE).

Collective Worship supports pupils' development by:

- Encouraging them to begin to think about (and for our more able pupils reflect) on their own feelings, beliefs, values and those of others.
- Positively influencing appropriate behaviour.

- Providing opportunities to celebrate together, as a whole school community.
- Celebrating their own and others' religious and cultural traditions.

Collective Worship can contribute to other AoLE's by providing different perspectives, developing thinking skills and encouraging pupils to want to find out more. Our Collective Worship opportunities also provide weekly opportunities to share and celebrate achievements both at individual and whole school level.

We are committed to drawing on a wide range of learning experiences, not just those directly related to religious events but about the world in general in order to provide all of our pupils with valuable, relevant and stimulating experiences in Collective Worship.

Leadership of Collective worship

Collective Worship is led and co-ordinated by our deputy headteacher, supported by two of our assistant headteachers and the team leader for the school curriculum phase. They will:

- Be responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient and relevant resources to support our Collective Worship programme.
- Work with other staff to develop termly and weekly themes.
- Collate evidence of practice.
- Provide training and support as and when required.

Monday Morning Assemblies

Monday morning assemblies are departmental and are usually led by classes on a rota basis. The theme will be usually be seasonal and/or based upon the UNCRC articles.

Friday "Star Awards" Assemblies

These are held weekly and are usually led by one of our assistant headteachers with support from some very eager and willing pupils. These assemblies provide valuable opportunities to celebrate both individual and whole school achievements, as well as encouraging those who have achieved their goals.

"Star Awards" assemblies are very lively and encourage our whole school inclusive and team ethos. Amongst the celebrations there will always be a selection of songs (with a spiritual flavour) and the school prayer (in Welsh and English), with a short time for thinking and reflection always concludes these assemblies.

Each class nominates a pupil for the "Star Award" and a photograph and/or video clip shows the rest of the school what the pupil has achieved. Parents/carers and governors are always welcome to join these assemblies.

End of day Collective Worship

We always end the school day with an Act of Collective Worship, led by classes on a rota basis. These are delivered to the whole school through our intercom system and ALWAYS follow the same format.

See Appendix 1 for details of the daily format.

Curriculum Cymreig

Our school assemblies reflect the language and culture of Wales, with a range of Welsh songs. Hymns, music, poems, stories being used as and when appropriate. Greetings and the school prayer are always given in both Welsh and English.

Resources

There are a wide range of resources to support Collective Worship and other special services. These include: a range of inspirational music and photographs, music/song books, musical instruments, Bibles, battery operated candles etc. There are also a range of artefacts to support Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. There are also a range of websites to support the planning and delivery of inspirational worship; for example, www.assemblies.org.uk.

Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality

Our school assemblies are planned to reflect the statutory requirements of the 1988/1993 Education Acts in that they are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. However, as part of the broad range of experiences provided to all of our pupils the major festivals from some other faith groups will also be celebrated throughout the year, such as: Diwali, Shabbat, Hanukah etc.

See “Equalities” policy for further details.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed as detailed in the school’s policy review cycle. It may also be necessary to review and amend it sooner to reflect both local and national changes.

Signed		Headteacher
Signed		Chair of Governors
This policy will be reviewed in line with the school’s policy review cycle.		

As a Rights Respecting School, we are committed to embedding the principles and values of the United Nation Conventions for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This policy enables our pupils to access and enjoy the following articles of the convention.

Article 12: Every child has the right to be heard.

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

Article 29: Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Article 42: Every child has the right to know their rights.



Leader's notes for end of day Reflection

1. Sit your class in a group (If appropriate).
2. Place the mat and Christianity resources (see list) visible to pupils.
3. Use YouTube to display a candle burning:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=candle+burning
4. Play '**I watch the sunrise**' music- (O:\1. Our School\14. Assemblies\04. End of Day Music) or use CD.
5. Read the "**End of day poem**" (switches available).
6. Listen to **Taize Chant**- (O:\1. Our School\14. Assemblies\04. End of Day Music) or use CD
7. **Read the school Prayer** (English and Welsh)
8. Sing '**Hwyl Fawr Ffrindiau**'
9. Ring the bell

Thank everyone for listening and ask them to listen for their names as buses are called.

End of Day Poem

As we come to the end of the school day what can we say about today?

Did we waste it or use it for good? Did we do the things we should?

What did we learn today?

What do we need to practice again tomorrow?

When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever.

So, as we say goodbye to this school day, let us say 'Thank you' to God.

Let's us remember how we tried our best, worked hard and learnt new things.

How we were helped by someone to do something new.

So let us leave today by saying that we have done something good and we have wasted no time.

And if we have something to regret, something we should do better then let us remember that tomorrow brings another chance to start afresh.




We can start again tomorrow and try our best to create success for all of us.

Let us end today with a smile and say goodbye to our friends sitting next to us.



Today's school day is finished.



(For pupils leading Collective Worship)



1   
1. Sit in a group.

2    
2. Put resources on the mat.

3  
3. Watch the candle burning.

4  
4. Listen to the music.




5  
5. Read the poem.

6  
6. Listen to the music.

7  
7. Read the prayer.




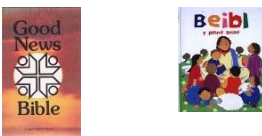



8   
8. Sing to our friends.

9  
9. Ring the bell.

10   
10. Go home safely.

Collective Worship Resource Box



Item	Picture	Meaning/Use	Check
Christian Thought Catcher		The 'Thought Catcher' is decorated with the most important Religious Symbols. The soft bright faith bag allows children to place their thoughts, questions and ideas inside.	✓
Soft Church		A sensory Church complete with Altar, Font, Lectern, Priest and 2 members of the congregation.	✓
Brass Crucifix		The Crucifix is the principal symbol for Christians across the world.	✓
Bible		'Good News' Bible and 'Welsh' Bible for children.	✓
Bell		School bell to ring at the end of Collective Worship.	✓
Purple mat		A wipe clean mat to place the Christian items on display for Collective Worship.	✓
Clever Candles		Flameless, electronic candles- blow to turn candle on and blow to turn candle off.	✓

The resource box also includes: the School Prayer, End of the Day Poem and the Collective Worship Structure. **Switches** available with poem and prayer recorded. The music is also available on **CD**.

Please check resources before returning the items to **Kate Thomas** every Friday.

