

YSGOL GYMUNED
FERNDALE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND
ASSEMBLY POLICY**

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Presented to Governors:
To be represented:

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

Legal Background

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that all schools must engage in a “Daily Act of Collective Worship”. This daily act is a vital and integral part of the school’s broad and balanced curriculum.

Definitions of “Worship” vary greatly and of course the school and the governing body are very much aware of the highly sensitive nature of this area of the school’s curriculum. For the purpose of this policy, the school has taken the guidance given from a number of prominent bodies, including ESIS (Education Support and Inspection Service) and SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).

Definition of Worship: a freely given response to that which is of worth, to that which is greater than oneself. It must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities (SACRE).

Character of Collective Worship

The majority of acts of collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” – that is reflecting the “broad traditions of Christian belief” – but they should be non-denominational. The majority of acts of collective worship must therefore reflect broad Christian principles and beliefs. Regard must be taken of ages, aptitudes and family background.

Aims of Collective Worship and Assemblies

Collective Worship forms an essential part of the school’s curriculum. In accordance with the values of the school, which are concerned with mutual respect, cultural diversity and social inclusion, collective worship will aim to:-

- Be of a broadly Christian character;
- Provide dedicated time for the school/year group/class to come together;
- Create a sense of “special” time with a distinctly spiritual atmosphere;

- Provide an opportunity to worship a supreme being and encourage spiritual development;
- Provide the opportunity to pray
- Provide opportunities to focus on matters of worth;
- Include all pupils (unless withdrawn by parents);
- Foster a sense of belonging and of sharing of values;
- Give pupils the opportunity to actively participate;
- Reinforce the values of the school community and its ethos;
- Celebrate success;
- Encourage a sharing of feelings and values;
- Help to establish and reinforce the school's ethos.

Assemblies also provide opportunities for:

- Pupils to develop pride in Ferndale Community School and in its pupils and staff;
- Encouraging the development of standards of good behaviour and values;
- Teaching and developing suitable attitudes;
- Fostering links with the community;
- Reflecting the demographic and cultural profile of the school;
- Allowing those who wish to worship do so;
- Personal reflection.

Organisation of Assemblies and Collective Worship

Collective Worship must be daily for all registered pupils, including sixth form pupils. (Parents or guardians have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish). The school would require this in writing. Assemblies take place immediately following morning registration.

Collective Worship will take place in a number of ways:

- Form tutor groups
- Year assemblies

The structure of Collective Worship falls broadly into two categories:

Informal Assemblies (Form Tutor Group)

Form tutors will be expected to read the “**Thought of the Week**” and allow pupils time to reflect on this in a “**shared silence**”. More detail is provided later in this policy.

Formal Assemblies (Senior Staff, Heads of Year and other Contributors)

An assembly rota will be drawn up each term. Senior staff and Heads of Year will be expected to lead their own weekly assemblies and encourage, through form tutors, pupil involvement and links with the wider community.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Governing Body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship.
- A daily act of worship is provided.
- Alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship.

Senior staff and Heads of Year are expected to lead assemblies as outlined in the Assembly calendar.

All staff are expected to attend all assemblies involving their class/year group and to participate in and make an active contribution to the assemblies and collective worship and encourage pupils to become more actively involved.

The Governing Body will consider, before approving the arrangements for collective worship, any requests for exceptions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher and Senior Staff will monitor and evaluate the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the school aims and values. These themes will be updated/revised annually under

the guidance of the Headteacher. Pupils and parents will be consulted about the impact of collective worship and assemblies on pupils.

THEME FOR THE WEEK/THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Theme for the Week

Each week of the school calendar has a weekly theme (see attached list) and every "Thought for the Day" in that week will relate directly to the theme.

Every assembly should be based on the weekly theme and include the reading of the "Thought for the Day". Year assemblies do not have to be based on the weekly theme but must still include the reading of the "Thought for the Day".

Thought for the Day

The school has introduced a "Thought for the Day" as it recognises that as human beings we have a spiritual and moral dimension and that it is healthy to foster and develop that area of our being. It is also good and of value to acknowledge this as a school community. While it is vital to avoid the danger of trying to influence pupils to think and believe particular things, it is also important for young people to know and to understand that staff and pupils are unique individuals with their own unique hearts and minds and that we should as a school community regard the moral and spiritual side of life as important. Moreover, that they want the young people they know as pupils to have the opportunity to explore, develop, affirm, modify and reaffirm their own responses. It is very important that everyone's beliefs or lack of beliefs is treated with equal respect.

There are two components to the "Thought for the Day". The first is a "trigger" which is the "Thought for the Day". The Thought is set within a weekly theme and at the barest minimum, should be read aloud once or twice either during Form Period or during an assembly.

The second component is the shared silence, during which each individual reflects on the Thought quietly and reflectively, knowing that others around and across the school are doing the same. Where possible, music should be used.

Delivery the “Thought for the Day” – Guidance for Staff.

The weekly Thoughts for the Day will be placed in every register at the beginning of the week and should be pinned on the Classroom noticeboard. The Thought for the Day will be displayed on the Plasma Screens around the school.

1. Don't worry about the reaction of the Form Group. Treat the Thought seriously and they will respond.
2. There is no fixed time during Form Period that it should be read, but it will have greater impact if it either starts the session or ends it and is not squeezed in between taking absence notes and giving out messages.
3. It is best to introduce the “Thought for the Day” if you can, perhaps by reminding pupils of the Weekly Theme. It might also be useful, especially for Years 7 and 8, if the Form Teacher says something about what the Thought means to them – “I suppose one of the things this is saying to me is”). This will help to present the Thought in a way which is accessible to all pupils, whatever their age.
4. The Thought can then be read either by the teacher, or by one of the pupils.
5. The reading of the Thought should be followed by a short period of silence.

EXAMPLE THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Week Commencing	Theme
	Sacrifices
	Examinations
	Spring and New Life
	Tolerance and Difference
	Loneliness
	Honesty
	Work
	Strength
	Dependence and Independence
	Hunger
	Status
	Birth
	Endings

THEME FOR THE WEEK: SACRIFICES WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

Jesus said: "give up everything you have and follow me"

TUESDAY

Every choice I make rules out all the other choices I could have made instead.
So all the other lives I could have led are sacrificed to the one I do choose.
Therefore let me choose well.

WEDNESDAY

"Unless a man has discovered something he is prepared to die for he is not fit to live " Martin Luther King

THURSDAY

The greatest gift we have is our one time on Earth.
Therefore, those who sacrifice their time for us, are sharing their most precious possession.
Let us give thanks for those who freely choose, in small ways or in great, to use their time for our sake.

FRIDAY

He who allowed himself to be tortured to death on a cross, must have believed completely in the truth and importance of what he stood for.
In the name of that sacrifice, let me ask myself:
'What do I believe in?'

THEME FOR THE WEEK: EXAMINATIONS



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

We think of all those across the country taking an examination today or in the coming weeks – and especially of those who are anxious about it. We think in particular of the pupils in our school.

We share their hopes and fears.

We wish them well.

TUESDAY

In the end, the only examination I really need to pass is the examination I make of my own conscience, in the light of my own values.

WEDNESDAY

I know that those who care about me do not do so in order to pass a test, or gain a certificate.

Let us all care about one another, for no reason except that we want to, and know that it is good to want to.

THURSDAY

Life is not an examination to pass, it is a song to sing.

The things I care about, the beliefs I hold, the values I am committed to – these make up my own.

FRIDAY

Nobody lives their life as well as they ought, or as well as they want to.

From time to time we all fail to live up to what we believe in. We fail our own test, and then feel bad about it. The most important lesson is to learn from our mistakes.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: SPRING & NEW LIFE
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

As the whole natural world renews itself once more around me, let me have the confidence to live in newness of life, growing towards the source of what I know is good, by acting out what I believe in.

TUESDAY

Let us wonder at, and be thankful for, all living things.
Let us enjoy the daily blessing of being alive.

WEDNESDAY

As the sun grows slowly stronger in this season, may the best part of me shine brighter within me, until I, too, give warmth and comfort to the world.

THURSDAY

For all those who feel, despite the season, that they remain in the winter of gloom and difficulty, I ask for some Spring of New Hope, and above all for the warm sun of sympathy from those who are nearby.

FRIDAY

Jesus said that if we decide to live our lives lovingly, and to live as though that, in the end, this is what matters, then everything becomes new, and our lives have a meaning.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: TOLERANCE & DIFFERENCE WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

May I have the generosity, and the understanding to tolerate those who are different.

TUESDAY

Since I am pleased that nobody is exactly like me, because that makes me a unique individual in the world, would it not be foolish of me to regard people who are different as inferior?

WEDNESDAY

Those who lack tolerance are looking at our world through a very narrow window, and missing part of the view.

THURSDAY

Let me give thanks for all those who tolerate me, with all my imperfections.
How shall I repay them?

FRIDAY

Let me be intolerant of all my own faults, so that I never cease growing and changing.
Let me forgive other people as readily as I hope to be forgiven.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: LONELINESS WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



MONDAY

Let us feel in our hearts for all those people who are lonely today.
How must our world, teeming with people, seem to them?

TUESDAY

There is a good loneliness, and a bad loneliness.
Even when we choose to be alone, let us give thanks for the luxury of knowing that we can return to the company of family and friends whenever we want.

WEDNESDAY

The first person in any group to do the right thing; and the first person in any group to reject the wrong thing, have this in common:
For a moment, until others follow, they are alone. Make me strong enough sometimes to go it alone.

THURSDAY

Life is a mystery we must all face alone, for my life will happen to no one else but me.
But however awesome it is to be living a unique life, how depressing it would be if it were any different, and we found ourselves living lives that had been lived before.
Let us be thankful for the gift of our own unique lives, and hope to use them well.

FRIDAY

We are all alone in our individuality.
We are all together in our humanity.
If, as separate individuals, we choose to be brothers and sisters to each other, none of us will ever be alone.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: HONESTY
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

If people were not generally honest with each other, the world would not work, because in all our dealings we would never know where we were. That is a good reason for honesty.

But there is another reason.

If I am not honest, the world does not really know who I am.

TUESDAY

If someone lies to me, I am being cheated out of the truth.

If I am dishonest with others, I have chosen to cheat them.

Let me choose to cheat no friend or stranger today.

WEDNESDAY

If I make a bet and lose, I simply have to hand over whatever amount I have staked.

But if I give my word, I am offering not money, but myself as a guarantee.

If I break my promises, I lose no money, but I have shown how little I value the loss of myself.

THURSDAY

My dishonest, selfish self will always tell lies to my best self. It will, for example, pretend there are all kinds of reason for doing what my selfish self wants, regardless of other people.

But my honest self will see through these lies, and not let my best, unselfish, generous self be cheated.

FRIDAY

If my best friend or a member of the family asks about how they look, or if I like what they have done, I may be tempted into a diplomatic white lie, out of affection.

The devil in me may remember that, when I am tempted into a real lie.

But I shall choose always to know the difference between white lies and black lies.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: WORK WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

If work is whatever I do with a frown,
perhaps whatever I do with a smile is play.
May we all work with a smile today.

TUESDAY

For those out of work.
To all men and women who wish for work today, but have
none, and feel left out.
We dedicate our thoughts and feelings.

WEDNESDAY

The work of a pupil is to understand the world a little better.
There are not many jobs better than that.

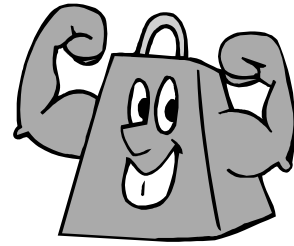
THURSDAY

Let me not be too busy with my day's work to open myself to
what I know is good and allow it to work on me.

FRIDAY

We say, men and women work 'to earn a living'.
But having earned it, what do they live for?
Jesus said that our life's work is to love one another.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: STRENGTH WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

Why should we expect what is most valuable to be gained without effort?

Give me the strength I need to be the kind of person I want to be today.

TUESDAY

Give me the strength of feeling for others that will allow me to live as I ought.

Take away the temptation to think only of myself, so that I can avoid the weakness of selfishness.

WEDNESDAY

Only those with inner strength are able to turn the other cheek.

Only those who are strong have enough greatness of heart to live for others.

THURSDAY

We pray for all those who are facing difficulties, and feeling weak: that they will find the strength to cope, and that people like us will lend them our strength by doing anything that we can to help.

FRIDAY

Jesus said that God loves us, whether we are strong or weak. Therefore, let us at least be strong in our love for one another.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: DEPENDENCE & INDEPENDENCE



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

The journey from babyhood to adulthood is the journey from total dependence on parents, and others, towards independence and freedom of action. The journey from immaturity to maturity is the journey from using our independence thoughtlessly, towards using it with wisdom.

TUESDAY

Freedom of thought, which all truly independent people have, carries with it an awesome responsibility. It means that I can blame nobody else for what I choose to think and believe, and do.

WEDNESDAY

Nobody can live a happy life without other people to care about. As people, we depend on others, not only for what they can give us, but also just to be there, so that we can give ourselves to them.

THURSDAY

The best friend is not the one who is the most independent, but the one who is the most dependable.

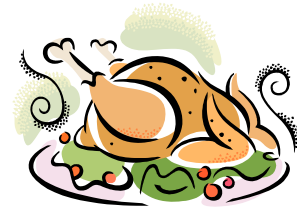
FRIDAY

Question: If God is good, why did he create us with the freedom to choose evil?

Answer: Because unless they were free, the people who love us would not really love us, and we could not love them back.

A robot cannot understand love.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: HUNGER
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

Let us pray in our hearts for all those who are hungry. We think especially of all children round the world who face today knowing that they are unlikely to eat.

TUESDAY

Let us give thanks, and the silent support of our thoughts, to all those men and women who are helping to fight famine today.

WEDNESDAY

Our supermarkets prove that we are rich enough to pay for exotic foods to be sent to us from all over the planet to prevent our meals from growing boring. We were born into the rich half of the world. Am I rich enough in generosity to decide to give some of my wealth to those who have no choice at all, except to be hungry every day?

THURSDAY

Jesus said:
'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled'.
I have a full stomach, but for what kind of righteousness do I hunger?

FRIDAY

We all hunger for loving-kindness.
Let us feed each other with what we hunger for.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: STATUS
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

Those who need status symbols to boost their self-image don't yet understand the importance of simply being a person.

TUESDAY

Would I prefer to live with someone who has money, fame and expensive clothes, or with someone who loves me? The answer I give tells me what I myself give high status to.

WEDNESDAY

We all remember how it feels occasionally to be misunderstood, or treated unfairly. Imagine being born to be considered a 'low status' person, so that because of nationality, or skin colour, or size or shape, people treat us unfairly all the time. Let us decide to give all our fellow humans equal status today.

THURSDAY

The real question is not: Can I gain a position to give me higher status?', but 'Am I now in a position to do some good?' The answer is always 'Yes'.

FRIDAY

We cling to our comforts and our selfishness as the most valuable things we have. Jesus said 'don't be afraid to give yourself away, to others, and find who you really are'.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: BIRTH
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

Every life path is different from every other.
Nobody else will be born to know exactly the places I will know. No one else will ever speak the same words I speak to the same people I will know.
Nobody else will read the same words, watch the same T.V., think the same thoughts.
Each birth is the beginning of something unique in the history of the universe.

TUESDAY

We are born to our own different lives,
but no life makes sense on its own.
We only live our lives in relationship to others

WEDNESDAY

We are born as defenceless animals, crying for what we need.
Because others take care, we stay alive, and can begin to grow.
Much later on we discover that we can let our hearts be touched by the needs of others.
It is only then we begin our lives as persons.

THURSDAY

Never doubt that your own birth had a special purpose.

Love life, love others, and every day will prove it.

FRIDAY

Every time I think a new thought, I have changed.
Every time I make a new decision, I have altered.
Every time I return to what is best in me, I am born again.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: ENDINGS
WEEK



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MONDAY

At the end of the day, this day ends, and will never return for me to live again.
Therefore, let me live it well.

TUESDAY

All lives, even our own, come to an end,
but there is no end to the value of a life.

WEDNESDAY

Human animals have the ability to look inside their own hearts and minds, and say of the things they see.
'This is good, I will let it grow', or 'This is not good, let it come to an end'.
Perhaps it is because we can, in this way, shape souls, that we are told we are made in God's image.

THURSDAY

Evolution backs winners.
Only the organisms that won the fight for survival, survived to evolve.
All others simply came to a dead end.
How strange if the end of evolution on earth, is the existence of creatures who can decide to be unselfish.

FRIDAY

As this term ends, let us give thanks for all the good experiences we shared, and that we were there to share them.
Let us now and in the future hold in our hearts and minds a place for those whose time here now comes to an end.
Finally let us pray that all keep safe. Until we meet again.