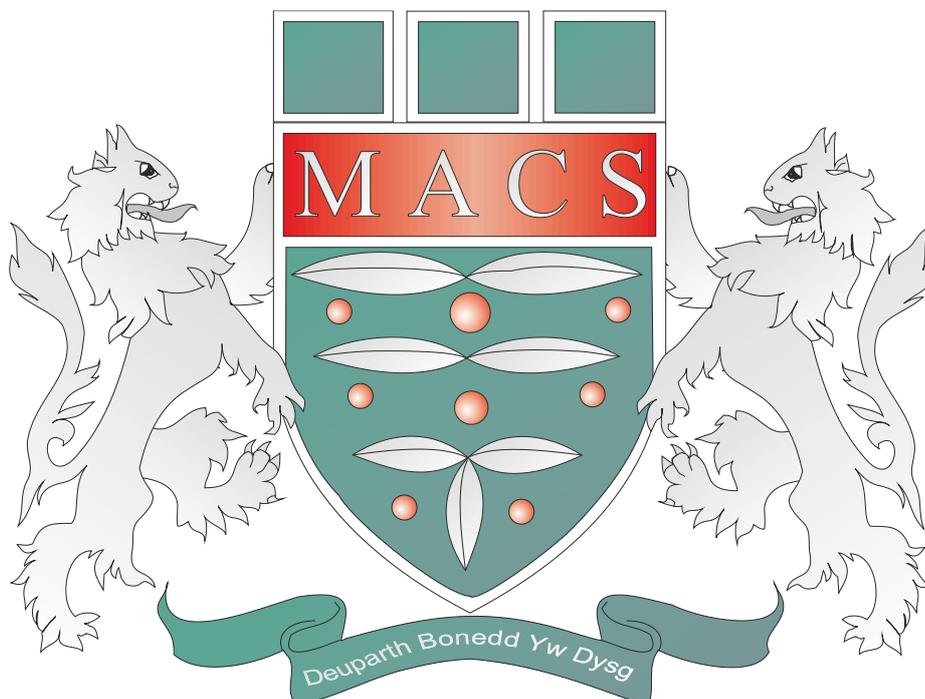


MOUNTAIN ASH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Signed _____ *P. J. J. J.* _____ (Chair of Governors)

Date _____

Reviewed: October 2017
Next Review Date: October 2020

Mountain Ash Comprehensive School complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship'.

All pupils at this school have assembly at least once a week and an act of collective worship is conducted in form groups on the other four days. This act of collective worship is 'mainly of a broadly Christian character' as required by law.

If, on religious grounds, parents wish to withdraw their children from collective worship and/or Religious Studies classes, they should make a formal **written** request to the Headteacher to that effect.

Assemblies and other acts of collective worship contribute significantly to the delivery of some aspects of the National Curriculum - particularly 'Citizenship', 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development' and certain aspects of the Personal & Social Education (PSE) course. These are all areas which students have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

There are four fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- 1) **inclusive in nature;**
- 2) **broadly educational in content;**
- 3) **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.**
- 4) **linked to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

INCLUSIVE - this means that we want to:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and religions which exist in our multicultural society. However the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- allow every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children;
- include active participation by students, parents and members of the local community – either in preparation or in performance.

EDUCATIONAL - this means that we want to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster a sense of shared values;
- provide valuable learning experiences and, as such, to be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning;
- enhance, complement and extend the curricular work;
- provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the children;
- provide an opportunity for pupils to learn how to behave in a social gathering.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL - this means that we want to:

- provide a brief period of relaxation from the busy life of school, when children will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet.
- provide the children with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words. The writings of the world's great religions, their prophets and followers provide a source of meaningful stories and philosophies for life.
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers;
- have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of their normal day-to-day lives.

LINKED TO THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – this means that we want to:

- place the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of the ethos and curriculum of our school. Acts of collective worship will be linked to the right(s) of the month.