

**Yr Adran Plant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau**  
**Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning**  
**and Skills**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
 Welsh Assembly Government

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All secondary school headteachers  
 Directors of Education  
 SACREs  
 WASACRE  
 February 2009

Dear Headteacher

### Collective Worship

Collective Worship continues to be an important part of school life. All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship which is broadly Christian, for all their pupils including those who are post 16. This is a long established requirement of our education system established by the Education Act 1944.

However provision made by the Education and Inspection Act 2006 allowed sixth formers in maintained mainstream schools the right to withdraw themselves from collective worship. The Minister for Children, Education Lifelong Learning and Skills has now signed an order bringing this provision into force in schools in Wales. It will come into force on 9 February 2009 This provision applies to both sixth formers in mainstream secondary and mainstream special schools. Previously it was only the parent/guardian of a child who could make such a request.

A parent/guardian will continue to be able to request that a child other than a sixth former be excused from collective worship.

For information WASACRE the Welsh Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education will shortly be sending guidance to schools on this change in the law.

I should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of the Head of Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely

Linda Badham  
 Head of Curriculum and Assessment 3-19



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