

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-388
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/05862/12

William Powell AM

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15 May 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2012 regarding Petition P-04-388 'Protect Collective Worship as a Legal Requirement'.

I recognise that collective worship is an important part of school life. In our multicultural country, it can be used as a way of supporting pupils' spiritual development and providing all pupils, irrespective of their family background, ages and aptitudes, with opportunities to explore and express what is of value in life in an open reflective way. With this in mind, I am not considering a change to the status of collective worship within schools in Wales.

Officials from my department have also been working with the Wales Association of the Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (WASACRE) to develop guidance to schools on Collective Worship to strengthen and clarify the expectations set out in Religious Education and Collective Worship: Circular 10/94. This guidance will be available to later in the year.

Thank you for sharing the results of the petition.

Yours sincerely,
Leighton Andrews.

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