

## Useful Websites

First port of call for documentation exemplars, diaries of reflection and resources.

[www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/collective-worship](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/collective-worship)

'Open the Book' is a resource designed for members of the local church to deliver collective worship on a regular basis. The scheme tells the whole of the story of the bible over the course of three years.

[www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net)

The assemblies website - school assemblies for every season.

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)

Fischy Music - Resources for Collective Worship Audio CDs of original material for daily Collective Worship in the classroom - 'five minutes with God, five days of the week'.

[www.fischymusic.co.uk](http://www.fischymusic.co.uk)

Twelve Baskets

A collection of creative multi-media member-generated resources for worship.

[www.twelvebaskets.co.uk](http://www.twelvebaskets.co.uk)

The National Society: School Worship

Guidance on the law; resources

[www.natsoc.org.uk/schools/curriculum/worship/](http://www.natsoc.org.uk/schools/curriculum/worship/)

Bible Reading Fellowship - Barnabas in Schools.

[www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/)

RE Today: Space for Reflection

Assemblies and guidance for collective worship (password required - available to RE today subscribers).

[www.retoday.org.uk/sfr/](http://www.retoday.org.uk/sfr/)

CASIAS (Consortium in Anglia for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools)

Diocesan Board of Education

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

01473 298570 [www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org](http://www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org)

[www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org](http://www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org)

Devizes Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

SP2 9LY

Tel: 01722 428 420

[www.salisbury.anglican.org](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org)

Ideas for celebrating Christian festivals, as well as stories with a Christian message:

[www.spinnaker.org.uk/](http://www.spinnaker.org.uk/)

## Recommended Resources

'Values for Life' - A worship resource to support the Teaching of Christian Values in Primary Schools.

Jumping Fish Publications:

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish/)

'Diaries of Reflection' - A flexible alternative approach to classroom based collective worship. Pupils keep a personal journal or diary in which they reflect through word or art on a number of weekly themes.

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/collective-worship/diaries-of-reflection>

'Lighting the Candle' - An interactive, flexible resource for engaging primary children in their own spiritual journey through school collective worship; giving them tools to help with the planning and leading of worship.

Contact: Truro Diocese 01872 247214

or: Exeter Diocese 01392 294950

'The Year in Colour' - Rachel Nicholls, published by Kevin Mayhew. Primary Assemblies for Christian Festivals and Seasons.

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THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

'Working for children, young people, schools and parishes'

## A brief guide to Collective Worship



### What elements contribute to effective Collective Worship?

This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive guide but as a sign-post to ideas and resources with which to facilitate good quality worship.

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Alternative Service Book Rite A*

At the Board of Education we are frequently asked questions about planning and leading effective collective worship. This leaflet is designed to provide a brief guide to key elements of worship and further resources to explore.

### Where do we start?

There are a wealth of resources on available to help with planning and delivery of Collective Worship and just a few are included in this leaflet. However, a good place to begin is to consider the impact of worship using the questions within the collective worship section of the SIAS self-evaluation toolkit:

- How positive are learners' attitudes to collective worship?
- To what extent do learners and staff derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from worship?
- How well does collective worship develop learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice?
- How effectively is the importance of worship demonstrated in the life of the school?

An honest evaluation of your school's current position is a great place to start. Do ensure that children are fully engaged in the process.

### When should we 'do' Collective Worship?

As long as worship is held regularly (daily) how and when is not prescriptive. Some schools prefer to begin each day with worship whilst others hold it at other times of the day.



Broadwindsor VC Primary

### 'How' should we do Collective Worship?

Again, there is no set way. Each school will have its own unique context. Nevertheless, if worship is to have an impact it needs to be relevant and accessible to its intended audience. A useful planning structure is offered by CASIAS (Consortium in Anglia for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) in *Flippin' Praise* (see booklist). In brief, a session of worship can be seen as four parts:

A '**Gathering**' activity to set a focus and establish a feeling of expectation.

'**Engaging**' is the main input.

'**Responding**' provides an opportunity for everyone present to reflect and respond in some way.

Finally, '**Sending**' is the ending of the act of worship in such a way that people have something to think about or do in a purposeful way.

### What then are key elements of worship?

#### Focal point / Symbols

These might include any of the following: cross; candle; flowers; artwork; colour (cloth to reflect the church year); natural object/s; an object relevant to worship that stimulates reflection; powerpoint slide pertinent to the theme.



St Mary the Virgin VA Primary, Gillingham

#### Clear beginning to worship

A short introductory sentence and response is a good way to begin worship. e.g. "*We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.*" Response: "*Jesus shine upon us.*"

These can be changed periodically, perhaps to reflect the changing church calendar.

#### Music/Songs/Hymns

Consider music to establish atmosphere and that supports the theme whenever possible. This can be whilst entering or leaving worship and/or during a time of reflection. Collective singing can be uplifting and if it also supports the theme, so much the better. This is also an opportunity for children who play instruments to engage and help lead.



Trinity VA First, Verwood

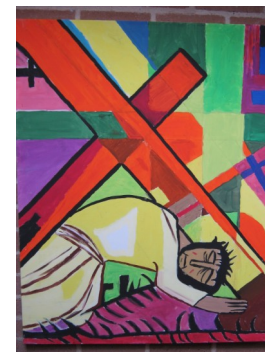
#### Story / Input

Think about impact upon those listening. Would it be more effective if the story is told rather than read, or even acted out.

Engagement is key. Does the story / input support the key values and ethos of the school?

### Creative and Expressive Arts

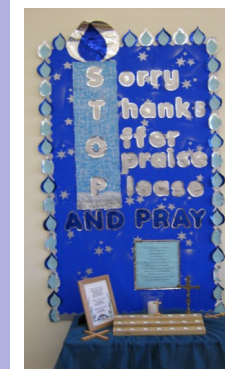
Give consideration to using a range of teaching and learning styles during worship. Artwork often provides a powerful visual stimulus.



Beechcroft St Paul's VA Primary, Weymouth

### Prayer

A key part of worship, it is important to invite staff and pupils to pray but there should be no compulsion. An introduction such as, "We are going to have a time of prayer now, and if you would like to, please join in with the Amen at the end." There are many ways in which we can pray: prepared; spontaneous; response; traditional prayers (the Lord's Prayer; the Grace).



Encourage pupils to take an active part in preparing prayers or contributing spontaneous prayers within worship. How about offering the opportunity to share concerns or items for prayer by providing a prayer box or tree which can form the basis of prayer.

### Liturgy

Set prayers or readings and responses are a feature of corporate Anglican worship and tradition. Your local clergy will be able to help with some short liturgy suitable for children.

### Silence / Quietness

Allowing time and space to think and reflect in silence can be very powerful. Sometimes quiet music can be used but don't be afraid of silence.

### Who should lead worship?

Staff, appropriate visitors, parish members (clergy and lay), children. Involve everyone in self evaluation too so that worship can be fresh and relevant.



