SALISBURY DIOCESE BOARD OF EDUCATION - INVALUABLE RESOURCES FOR ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

For any staff responsible for identifying assembly themes throughout the year and who are looking for material that will captivate an audience – from KS1 to KS4 and beyond – the Board of Education has a number of excellent publications that could be of enormous benefit when planning assemblies and collective worship in the coming months.

Three brief synopses of the most relevant resources are set out below. For a more detailed description of each publication please do visit our website link and explore a few sample pages yourself.

www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/by-category/publications

Festival Matters (V Holloway/ P Dodds/ P Burns/ I Pooley)

Written by the Education Advisers for the Dioceses of Salisbury, Bath and Wells, Exeter and Truro, this 6-CD box set seeks to promote understanding in key Christian festivals, such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest.

This work provides a chance for schools to explore and develop an understanding of key Christian concepts. There is plenty of scope for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils, enhancing their multi-cultural understanding.

There are also invaluable work schemes for each year group from Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6, with a different theme and emphasis for each year.

‘Festival Matters’ is a highly popular, successful and flexible publication which schools can easily adjust to fit their own circumstances.

Journeys (B Meardon/ V Holloway)

‘8 Bible-themed Journey Days for Primary Schools’ is an excellent resource for collective worship. Using the theme of journeys the resource is largely, but not exclusively, based on the concept of an activity day.

The material is practical, comprehensive, imaginative and especially good for cross-curricular lessons. Equally important, this resource also has collective worship outlines, reflections and class collective worship for each of the journeys - ideal for use in an assembly setting.

Furthermore, it comes highly recommended by the Church Times as “a useful tool when planning school assemblies.” Click here for a copy of the article:

Food for Thought (D Holloway/ D Legge)

‘Food for Thought’ consists of 30 A5 cards in an easy-to-store box; a series of reflections for groups or for use in the classroom. The cards are laid out in an attractive common format and include a bible reading, a reflection and a couple of relevant sayings or quotes from a range of secular and faith sources. There’s even a ‘How to Use This Pack’ card for the teacher and a blank card for your own ideas.

The topics covered give pupils a chance to take time to reflect on, and discuss, a variety of human and personal issues. Themes covered include: change, anxiety, family and self-worth.

Each card can be used as a set-piece for collective worship, but we are finding that the cards are currently proving extremely popular with Headteachers of both Key Stage 1 and 2, and is proving equally valuable to schools for group work with Key Stage 2 pupils, where the pupils can creatively develop some of the ideas and themes themselves, and can easily participate in helping to lead a session.

RE Today reviewed Food for Thought and described it as “a really helpful resource for the busy teacher.”

If you are interested in any of these publications, please contact Emma Webb at the Diocesan Education Centre:
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