

Collective Worship

Ideas and Guidance

for Class and Bubble worship



Introduction


Although schools cannot hold whole school collective worship or worship together in larger groups during this time, the statutory requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship remains and all pupils are entitled to this. How are schools to fulfil this requirement in an inclusive, invitational and inspiring way?

We know how important whole school worship is; how much it is valued by staff and pupils alike and how in many schools it sits at the very centre of school life. Although small group and 'bubble' worship can never fully replace whole school worship, this time provides schools with new opportunities as well as new challenges.

This guidance is designed to give you some ideas for planning and holding collective worship in small groups and 'bubbles'.

Establishing a Pattern of Weekly Worship

It is a good idea to follow the pattern of whole school collective worship already established in your school.



The Collective Worship page of our Diocesan education website contains links and downloads to support your collective worship planning.

Here are some things to think about:



Establish a theme for each week.

You might follow your school's long-term plan for collective worship.



Link to your vision and values.

Think about the opportunities to link your weekly collective worship theme to your school vision and values.



Link your theme to the Bible and Christian teaching. Think about using a Bible story or other stories to illustrate your theme.



Make worship relevant and engaging. You might want to use an item in the news as a starting point.



Use high quality materials and resources. Think carefully about if and how you will use whiteboards or other digital media. Collective worship is not another lesson.



Make bubble worship enjoyable and joyful. Don't forget praise and thanksgiving. Even though you cannot sing you can still listen to music and perhaps even hum along.



Don't forget to celebrate. Include opportunities to recognise achievements and celebrate.

Establishing a Pattern for each act of worship

We recommend schools follow the GERS pattern for worship:

Gathering

Engaging

Responding

Sending

Gathering - make your worship welcoming.

Think about using responses, words of welcome, music, lighting a candle

Engaging - This includes the main content of your worship where you explore your theme and incorporate the resources you have chosen to use. Bubble worship provides greater opportunities for discussion and simple activities. Make worship relevant and link to your pupils' experiences.

Responding - This may be through reflection, prayer, listening to a song, humming along..

Sending - Pupils are 'sent' away from worship with a challenge for the day/week, a thought, a Bible verse to think about, a picture to reflect on, a question to bring back to worship the following day to discuss....

'Flippin Praise' is a great publication if you want more ideas for GERS

Practical Considerations

When planning your bubble worship make sure you think about:



Classroom layout and seating

How can you make worship time different and special?



Creating a Focal point

Do pupils need a focal point? What will it be? Where will it be? What will it add to your worship? How do you make sure it does not become a distraction?



Creating atmosphere

How can you create an atmosphere of worship in a classroom setting? What atmosphere do you want to create? Will you use music? Silence? How will you make your bubble worship distinct from the rest of the day?



Involving Pupils

Make sure you involve pupils in planning and leading your bubble worship. Could they research relevant news stories? Could they find, read or act out Bible stories? Can they write the responses for the week to open and close your worship?



Worship in different settings.

Don't forget the great outdoors! Perhaps you could visit your local parish church as a bubble?