

Footprints

Step-by-step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

February 2020



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

Collective Worship

What a wonderful family of schools we belong to! I hope as you read the content of this edition of Footprints, focused on Collective Worship, that you feel as inspired and uplifted as I do. Whilst we can only feature three schools in each edition, I am well aware that such good practice is taking place in so many schools across the Diocese. Thank you!

Having a time of Collective Worship in the school day gives a special time, place and space for reflection, spiritual

development and celebration. It demonstrates how Church of England schools take seriously the belief, set out in our national vision for education, that it is important to 'educate the whole person', so that we can encourage all to experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). You may not have read the 1988 Education Reform Act lately, but it too sees education as physical and intellectual development united with spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Long may our shared national view of education remain as such!

The relationship between school and the local church is such an important one, and one that can be celebrated in so many areas across the Diocese. It is also mutually beneficial. I have spoken to clergy who tell me they have learned so much through working with schools, and this also includes their own faith development. That's a powerful indictment of why children should always be at the centre of what we do and reflects the wisdom of Jesus's words when he said 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder

them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these' (Matthew 19:14).

You may not be aware, but the Church of England nationally, has recognised the effective way schools are involving children in developing school life and particularly their involvement in planning and leading Collective Worship. This features significantly in 'Growing Faith' (Feb 2019), a vision set by the House of Bishops to ensure a national commitment to achieve a significant culture change within the Church so that every aspect of mission and ministry is seen through the lens of what it means for ministry with children, young people and households. They state that 'Education has changed a lot over the last 30 years, and the dynamic experience young people have through their schools is not always matched by their experience in church. Young people tell us that they are not often involved in decision making or given leadership responsibility in the church.' As you will know there is much that our schools can contribute to the wider church's learning and we look forward to doing so!

LISTEN

CELEBRATE

IMAGINE

EMPOWER

...MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE

Collective Worship – the heartbeat of our school day



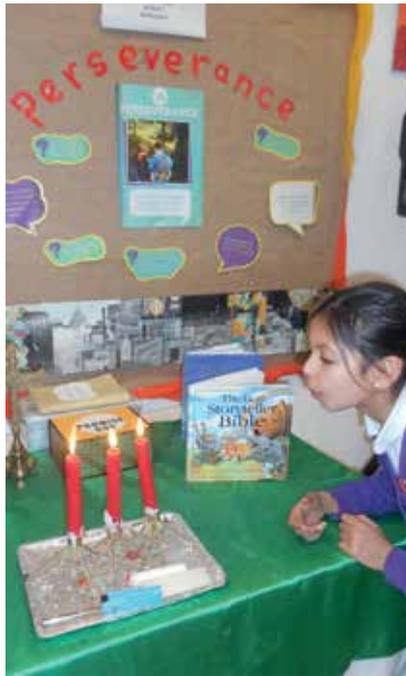
Jon Moule
Distinctiveness & Standards Manager

Collective Worship provides the daily space for the whole school community to come together, pause for thought and breathe, leaving refreshed and inspired. It nurtures the spiritual dimension for staff, pupils and the wider school community, enabling

them to consider the meaning of life. It offers the opportunity to reflect with awe and wonder on the natural world, and connect with the Bible and God through art, music, prayer, reflection and stillness. Collective Worship provokes the participant into action, causing them to reflect on their behaviour, values and attitudes. It also fosters the relationship with the local Anglican Church and the appreciation of the diversity of traditions in the worldwide church. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity in the school day to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements. The SIAMS Schedule stresses that in a good Church School Collective Worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. The website

www.worshipworkshop.org.uk is a great tool for supporting schools to build the liturgy around Collective Worship.

There are many exciting examples of innovative Collective Worship across our Diocese, including Open the Book, Prayer Spaces, Worship Ambassadors and inter-school worship. Our Collective Worship Best Practice Group was launched last term and we are looking forward to meeting again on Tuesday 3rd March at 1.30pm. Please contact Jon Moule (jon.moule@dioceseofnorwich.org) if you would like to join this group, if you would like me to attend your Collective Worship or if you have any great examples showcasing the impact of Collective Worship in your school.



Elizabeth Cooper
Collective Worship Lead
Tacolneston and Morley Federation

At Tacolneston and Morley Federation, Collective Worship really is 'the heartbeat of the school'. It's a time when the office managers put on the answer phone, the Head turns her computer off and everyone comes together. No two days are ever the same when it comes to worship. With delivery from teachers, SLT, governors, children, members of the community and local churches of

different denominations, everyone brings something different. A Collective Worship of quiet reflection one day can be a lively and energetic time the next. A mixture of traditional and more modern songs and hymns is used and worship can be in the form of singing or psalms, based on our values or the Christian calendar. The end of the week is marked with a celebration of the achievements of the whole school community and to recognise the Christian values that have been displayed throughout the week. The lighting of three candles (representing the trinity)

marks the start of collective worship and everyone joins in the opening prayer. Worship ends once the candles are out and all have a chance to reflect through thought or prayer in the reflection areas. A focus for the federation this year has been monitoring the impact of Collective Worship and listening to pupils, parents and the whole school community voice. The invitation to attend worship has been widened to the community, and the impact can be seen through dialogues and the demonstration of the values and teachings of the Old and New Testament.

A Personal Reflection

Rob Jones & Julie Leader
Wreningham CE VC School

As part of a review of our school as a church school, we thought very carefully about Christian distinctiveness and what makes a church school different and unique. To make Christian distinctiveness concrete is extremely difficult, it's very much about the ethos, the values and the people. We thought about our school and the Christian values which are integral to us, which we live every day, and on which we base our collective worship. These values are the foundation on which we build everything and which we believe are the first element in our Christian Distinctiveness.

The second element is Collective Worship, and although we valued Collective Worship we wondered how much impact it actually had on children's spiritual development. Discussions with our DSSO gave us the opportunity to involve the children in planning and leading collective worship on a regular basis. This has been hugely impactful in terms of children's spiritual growth in two ways, both with regard to the children's knowledge of the Bible stories and their



understanding of how Christian values reflect everyday life, and in terms of the children's participation and response, their listening to and joining in the worship offered.

Collective Worship is carefully planned and resourced, not a last minute rush (!), leading to high quality, thought-provoking worship. In our school, we believe Collective Worship has become a special time, significantly different from the remainder of the day. It's a time of

togetherness and reflection. Children can start to get to grips with concepts important to Christianity such as the Trinity and the Christian liturgy. Close links with the local church and the vicar, have enabled us to become involved in church services and gain an insight of the importance of worship in the lives of parishioners.

The last word can be the children - Sam 'It makes a little bit of difference to how I live every day.'

Rebecca Newman
Executive Headteacher
Gt Witchingham, Primary Academy

Collective Worship at Great Witchingham Primary Academy has evolved over the years with the help of our Federation Ethos Committee, church community and, of course, the children and staff. Each half term we think about a different Christian value which also links to the overall curriculum theme. Adults actively promote the value throughout the school day, helping the children to reflect on their behaviour, values and attitudes both in and out of school and parents are provided with ideas for activities to do at home.

The children enjoy leading the gathering and singing as well as taking charge of the words and music and joining our Open the Book team in their dramatic representation of stories from the Bible! We carefully plan the content for the half term to include child-led worship, visitors from local charities as well as regular visits from our local clergy. We build in time to



reflect on the value, through class worship where the children are able to share their thoughts about what they have experienced in Collective Worship and also give ideas for future plans.

Collective Worship always begins the day at Great Witchingham and involves all adults and children in school. We come together and celebrate the start

of a new day, allowing a moment of contemplation in our busy lives. At our Christmas service the children form a ring around a candlelit church holding their Christingle and sing 'Turn Down the Lights'. For me, this is a chance to watch the children grow spiritually through their experience of worship, stillness and reflection which is a joy!

Governor & Clerk Update



Jill Wakefield

SIAMS Strand 6: The impact of collective worship. How well do leaders ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring and is central to the life of the school?

In Church of England schools, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Governors, particularly foundation governors, have a key role in monitoring the planning and provision of collective worship to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

Following reports of a judicial review

granted by the High Court, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders wrote: "We live at a time when children feel besieged by social media, weighed down by pressure and report poor mental health. Collective worship offers ten minutes in a day for children to pause and explore the big existential questions such as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' and 'How then should I live?'".

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Do you know that these opportunities are being provided in your school? When was the last time a governor

submitted a monitoring report to the governing body on collective worship?

If you are monitoring collective worship, do you evaluate the impact on pupils and staff and consider in what ways and to what extent collective worship is:

- Inclusive – were there opportunities for the whole school to engage with worship?
- Invitational – what variety of creative experiences were used to enable the children to encounter God?
- Invitational – what opportunities were the pupils given to take part in the act of worship?

The Diocese offers training for governors on the SIAMS Schedule which includes an element on collective worship. The next course is on 4 March 2020, 10am-12noon at Diocesan House. To register for a place, please email governance@donesc.org stating your name, governing body, course and date.

Jill Wakefield can be contacted by email: governance@donesc.org or call 01603 881722

Showcase your talents at The Royal Norfolk Show



As part of the Diocesan marquee at the Royal Norfolk Show (1-2 July 2020), we would like to showcase the fabulous courageous advocacy and pupil leadership work going on across our schools.

Artwork/writing/photographs It would be wonderful if artwork, writing and photographs from your school could be displayed. If you can help with this, please email: jon.moule@dioceseofnorwich.org and

we can arrange to collect the work from your school by the beginning of June.

Choir/music/dance

Does your school have a choir, music or dance group who would be willing to perform in our marquee at the Norfolk Show? If the cost of transport to the show is a prohibiting factor, please do get in touch to discuss.

For more information contact: angela.george@dioceseofnorwich.org

SIAMS Outcomes

The following schools have had their SIAMS inspections this term

Requires Improvement

Swaffham VC Infant School

Good

Brooke CofE VC Primary School

Excellent

Ingoldisthorpe CofE VA Primary School



Promote your local church groups & activities
www.brightmap.org