

IQ3: How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School:

In our Church of England Primary School, with pupils from multiple faiths and no faith, Collective Acts of Worship play a central role in enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually by providing a shared space for reflection and deeper understanding of faith, values and beliefs, all within the school's Christian ethos, while respecting and embracing religious diversity.

Our values support this inclusive gathering to enable all participants to feel a sense of collaboration, belonging and recognition of self-worth through knowing their thoughts, feelings and opinions are valued.

At each of our Daily Acts of Collective Worship we reinforce our agreed school vision by lighting the candles to represent God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, This is always followed by our vision: A school where every child can shine.

Daniel 12:3: 'Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven and those who lead the many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever.'

Response: Peace Be With You

Reply: And Also With You.

Our Collective Worship themes are built around a 2 year cycle:

Hope (Salvation)

Dignity (Incarnation)

Wisdom (Creation)

Community (Love)

Our worship encourages reflection and time to know who we are. This time offers moments of stillness and thought, allowing all to connect with their beliefs, values and personal spirituality. There is a sense of belonging, purpose and self-awareness. Our recent Ofsted (4th March 2024), identified through pupil and adult voice that Collective Worship was a place where 'we can be together' and it makes them feel like a 'family'.. The lead inspector noted that the pupils felt this was a popular aspect of their school day.

Our Collective Worship is grounded in Christian teachings and is inclusive and welcoming to people of different faith or those who have no faith. Themes are universal and resonate with all.

Our Collective Worship builds that sense of community and that by gathering together there is a unity or wholeness about our school. This is amplified also through our community Acts of Worship

each term in St Michael's Church. It helps us to strengthen our relationships, encourages mutual support and nurtures our inclusive environment where individuals feel valued and respected.

Our Collective Worship provides moral and ethical guidance through stories, prayer, discussion and song. Through our themes we explore strong moral decisions and these guide our thoughts, feelings and actions not only throughout our days in school but beyond. Pupils and adults explore key Christian principles while also considering how similar values appear in other faiths and world views. This helps broaden ethical awareness and strengthens right from wrong.

Our Collective Worship enables pupils and adults to be exposed to religious teachings, traditions and views. This enables us to explore our own beliefs while respecting others. This can lead to a deeper spiritual understanding and personal growth. Pupils and adults can share their reflections, readings or prayer.

Our Collective Worship supports emotional growth and well-being. Through these acts of worship they can provide comfort, hope and resilience in times of difficulty. Through prayer, song and reflection individuals can express their gratitude, hopes and wishes as well as find inner peace.

Our Collective Worship inspires a sense of wonder in the world, life, human connection and through awe and wonder there can be a deepening of self.

Our Collective Worship balances Christian identity with inclusivity. Worship can include moments of silent prayer and reflection or thought so all can engage in a way that aligns with their own faith of beliefs.

“Do not neglect in meeting together,” Hebrews 10:25.

Collective Worship comments and ‘take-a-ways’:

‘Everyone matters.’

‘The story taught me to give people second chances.’

‘I took away how important it is to listen.’

‘I saw how Hope can get bigger.’

‘I took away how we need to look after the planet and care more. We need to treat others how we want to be treated.’

‘I understand that being part of a community is one person working with others.’

‘I learnt anger shouldn't control you, you should control it.’

‘We can have wisdom at any age.’

‘I thought about solving problems by thinking.’

‘I took away don't use wisdom for ourselves use it for others.’

