

## CELEBRATION WORSHIP

### Some thoughts to help you to review how you celebrate pupils' gifts and talents in the context of worship

Many schools use one of their weekly acts of worship to show how much the school community values the achievements of its members. Here are some suggestions to help you to develop the sense of worship and celebration for such occasions within the four part framework recommended by the Diocese. This should be an opportunity to reflect the belief that our gifts and talents are God-given and precious in the sight of God. As such, we must nurture and use our gifts in the service of others. Make sure that this is done in the context of worship rather than as an 'assembly' if this is to be your act of worship on a particular day of the week.

Thanks to two headteachers from Rochester and Canterbury Dioceses for their contribution to these suggestions.

#### GATHERING

Suggested biddings and responses might include:

I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord'  
**And all the good things I have come from you**

The Lord is good  
**He made us and we belong to him**

O Lord, our Lord  
**Your greatness is seen in all the world**

The world and all that is in it  
**Belong to the Lord**

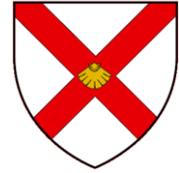
Praise the Lord  
**For the Lord is good**

Alternatively, invite pupils to write some biddings of their own.

#### ENGAGING

The following Bible passages are suggested for exploration in relation to the theme of celebration but there will be others that you can find:

- Wise words from the book of Proverbs
- The message of the Old Testament prophets eg Isaiah – hope for the future and celebration of things to come
- Daniel – celebrating trust/faith and the need for resilience
- The Prodigal Son – being happy for others
- Zacchaeus – the inclusion of what everyone can offer
- Parables of the Kingdom – using our gifts to extend God's Kingdom on earth



- Pentecost – links with the fruits of the Spirit and the ways in which we should use these to benefit others

## RESPONDING

This might be shown in the giving of certificates and awards as an acknowledgment of the gifts and talents which we have received from God and which we use in recognition of this generosity. Prayers of thanksgiving for our gifts and talents might be offered as well as prayers that we will continue to use these in the service of others.

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In a world of change and hope,  
of fear and adventure;  
faithful God  
**glorify your name.**

In the common life of our society,  
in prosperity and need;  
faithful God  
**glorify your name.**

Among our friends  
and in our homes;  
faithful God  
**glorify your name.**

In our times of joy,  
in our days of sorrow;  
faithful God  
**glorify your name.**

## SENDING

Use words of blessing and sending which encourage the school community to take action in the world which will make a difference to those around them – as we have all been given the gifts of love, joy, peace etc to share with others.

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.  
**Amen**

Go in peace,  
**We go in peace**  
Go in joy  
**We go in joy**  
Go in love  
**We go in love**  
**Amen.**