



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP GUIDANCE: Rochester Diocese 2012

This framework is designed as guidance for Collective Worship in Church of England primary schools. It should be adapted and used in the way which best supports your own pattern and practice. The content can be differentiated for different groupings whilst still using the key ideas.

Please note that links have been made with Christian Values and with SEAL. As schools use these links in different ways, the framework does not depend upon these links – other values may also be developed depending, for example, those chosen within your particular school.

The daily act of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Worship, Christian and Denominational. The framework addresses this in the following ways:

Worship

A structure is provided which helps to maintain a regularity and familiarity both for those leading the worship and for the school community participating in it. It should be familiar to those from your local church(es) who assist in leading worship.

- Gather
- Engage
- Respond
- Send

This also provides a clear direction for those less experienced in leading worship or can act as a basis for in-school training about worship (see also the additional guidance about this four part structure).

Christian

All acts of worship have a Bible story or Bible passage at their heart. Key ideas and key teaching from Christianity are always the focus. The intention is that the ideas should be developed with this in mind.

In a Church school, teachings and ideas from other faith traditions are best explored in RE or in a separate assembly rather than as part of an act of Christian worship. In this way, the celebrations and practices of everyone can be valued and shared appropriately.

Denominational

Elements of Anglican liturgy have been incorporated into the framework in the form of biddings, blessings and a variety of prayers. The shape of the Church's Year is reflected throughout the terms as follows

- Term 1 – Harvest
- Term 2 – Advent and Christmas
- Term 3 – Epiphany and Lent
- Term 4 – Easter
- Term 5 - Pentecost
- Each term includes a number of saints and notable Christians whose commemoration days fall during the particular period according to the Church's calendar