

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

YEAR 3/TERM 6/WEEK 6 - RESPONDING TO ENDURANCE

At its root, endurance is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity. Endurance and perseverance are only possible where there is hope and that hope is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness. Particular sensitivity will be needed when exploring this value. Adversity will mean different things to different children, with many having already faced a range of serious challenges and difficulties in their young lives. The theme of the sea has been chosen to explore the value: consider setting up a reflection area in the hall linked to this theme like 'Holding Firm' from Pause for Reflection, part of the Jumping Fish series.

SEAL link – Going for goals

Values link – Endurance

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>We meet in the presence of God who ... hears us when we pray ... knows all our troubles (or ideas of your own)</p>	<p>GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (whole school) Psalm 118 'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love endures forever'. Resource: a picture of an anchor (or a real anchor if you can get one!) Ask the children to discuss things that they have endured or found difficult in school. Perhaps it was a day of tests or a day when their best friend was absent and they had no one to play with, perhaps they were worried about someone they loved. On these days, we just have to keep going despite not quite feeling ourselves. This is endurance. Discuss the real purpose of an anchor and re-iterate how strong it has to be. This is like the love of God which is so strong we can trust in it, no matter how stormy life gets. Who else is like an anchor in the children's lives?</p> <p>WHO HELPS US TO ENDURE? (whole school) It is really important that we can turn to someone who understands how we might feel when we are having to endure tough times. Ask the pupils if they can remember some the things that Christ had to endure (eg: temptation in the desert, being criticised by others, being betrayed by his friend, people doubting him, calling him names, being crucified). Many Christians turn to Christ in prayer to help them through difficult times, because they know He understands. Ask the children to think about what would have kept Christ strong when times were difficult.</p>	<p><i>For older pupils:</i> <i>Look at the first verse and chorus of this famous hymn and consider what it really means:</i> Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, When the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the strong tides lift and the cables strain, Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?</p> <p>We have an anchor that keeps the soul Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.</p>	<p><i>Peter 4:11</i> In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen <i>A sending for use on any occasion.</i> <i>This thoughtful prayer brings together values of trust and service.</i> <i>Though it does not use the words</i></p>



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<p><i>Ask pupils to think about quotes like those below or to reflect upon images of endurance</i></p> <p>Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.</p> <p>William Barclay</p>	<p>WHO HELPS US TO ENDURE? (whole school) Matthew 26 Even Jesus, despite all of his strength and ability to endure, looked to his disciples to help and sustain him by watching and praying with him. Jesus chose his disciples well – they knew all about endurance! Many of them were fishermen. Today, it's considered to be amongst the most dangerous jobs in the world and a great example of endurance – the fisherman have to keep going back out sea to earn a living though conditions are really difficult. (Show pictures or a video of a modern trawler at sea to exemplify this or bring in a raw fish!). Talk about how even 2000+ years ago, Jesus' friends would have had a dangerous job having to cope with long hours, in small, simple boats on rough seas and smelly fish! They went on to endure many more tough times: they remained friends with Jesus and they went onto spread the Word of Christianity even when it was very dangerous to do so. Ask the children to think about the skills / values that they would want in a friend who will help them endure the difficult times.</p>	<p>This is my prayer to thee, my Lord; Give me strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows; Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service; Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might. Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles. And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love. <i>Rabindranath Tagore</i> 1861 - 1941</p>	<p><i>it makes us think of living out these values through endurance.</i></p>
<p>Every calamity is to be overcome by endurance.</p> <p>Virgil</p>	<p>SMALL BUT STRONG (Class or key stage) Romans 15:4 <i>'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope'.</i> Hand out a few empty limpet shells to the pupils and ask them to guess what animal it is! Not many people know that the animal which once lived in the limpet shell is one of the strongest animals on earth. Show pictures of limpets clinging to a rock by the sea. How on earth does it manage to cling on with all the waves crashing around it? The answer is very clever. God has given this tiny animal a ring of teeth which are so strong that it can bite into the rock and just hold on. Not even the strength of the sea can shake it off! Explain that God has given each of us our own skills to cope when times are difficult. KS1: Ask younger pupils why they might be strong like the limpet. KS2: Discuss with older pupils skills like inner resilience, perseverance and persistence.</p>		