

SINGING IN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Some thoughts to help you to review how you use singing and music in worship

Many of you will spend one act of worship in the week helping pupils to learn new hymns and songs – sometimes labelled ‘singing assembly, or ‘singing practice’. It is important to take time to learn to worship through song and through music – but it is also important that this time serves as an ‘act of worship’ if it does take place as your daily act of worship on a particular day of the week.

It is helpful to make sure that this act of worship ‘does what it says on the tin’. Schools who have thought through the purpose of this act of worship have decided to use a description such as
Praise and Reflection

or

Learning to worship

or

Prayer and Praise

What to include

Make sure that you take time in this act of worship to continue to

Gather – use a bidding about praise (see below)

Engage – take time to explore and explain the words of songs and hymns

Respond – take time for quiet reflection and prayer (see below)

Send – leave in a spirit of song and praise

Why sing?

Singing in Collective Worship brings the whole community together, adults and children in a single activity. It can be enjoyable and uplifting and its role might be defined as:

- bringing pupils into an awareness of the presence of God, or providing the opportunity for this to happen
- allowing for an active offering of worship, a response to God, from both the individual and the community.
- planting important lessons and ideas, and teaching Christian truths
- bringing worship alive, enabling everyone to enjoy it and have fun
- sending the community on their way rejoicing and with a sense of purpose

Using music and songs within our four part framework

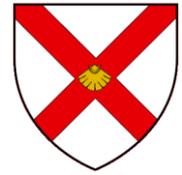
Think about the use of music throughout your act of worship – this will influence what you learn to sing and how the school community understands worship.

G A T H E R I N G

1. Use a ‘Gathering’ song with which everyone joins as they gather. The song may be sung by a small choir at the front or entrance to the hall as others arrive or could be played on CD. Classes could bring banners, shakers or flags with them so there is a sense of celebration.

2. Welcome the community by inviting everyone to ‘Sing a New Song’. You could invite a child to open a Bible and to read a verse from the Psalms about singing or use a bidding a response based on a verse from the Psalms

Eg Let everything that has breath praise the Lord



Praise the Lord!

(Psalm 150: 6)

Pupils might like to write their own bidding and response about praise through singing.

E N G A G I N G

1. An adult or older child might teach a new song, using actions and pictures as appropriate. A small group, choir or class could help with this.
2. Time might be taken to engage with the words, asking children for favourite words, discussing what the song is about and why it was written.

R E S P O N D I N G

1. A minute might be allowed for 'silent' sitting – a period of reflection. The use of a metronome or a set length short piece of music helps gauge time.
2. Individual children can say or read prayers with quiet music playing.
3. A quiet song could be chanted while a candle is lit, whilst prayer is said or intercessory prayer is offered with sung response
4. Prayers might be offered in the form of intercessions using a sung response from the Taize community e.g. O Lord, hear my prayer. These short songs can be found and played on the Taize website.
8. You might select a sung Lord's Prayer – for meditation, dance, flags, signing or you might use a sung psalm such as The Lord's my Shepherd.

S E N D I N G

9. You might choose a leaving song, song of blessing, or song from the world church, maybe in another language, to send pupils on their way singing.