

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNING

<b>GATHERING</b>	
Call: The Lord be with you	<b>Response: And also with you!</b>
Gathering activity:	Pictures: Sounds: Thoughts:
Gathering Song:	
<b>CONFESSION &amp; ABSOLUTION</b>	
Bringing our life before God: Saying we are sorry Remembering we are loved:	Pictures: Sounds: Thoughts:
<b>GOD'S WORD (SEASON?)</b>	
Reading the word: Showing the meaning:	Pictures: Sounds: Thoughts:
<b>INTERCESSIONS</b> (prayers for god to act)	For the school For the world For the local community
End of section call:	Response:
<b>SENDING OUT</b>	
<b>SENDING SONG:</b>	
Call: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord	<b>Response: In the name of Christ we will!</b>

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS.

### **GATHERING:**

God is always present, but we are often not. We are not always aware of ourselves, our surrounding and the thoughts and feelings of those around us. The Gathering is to give us a chance to be 'fully present' as individuals, and to then gather as a group through shared activity. This can be effective as a short guided meditation followed by a group activity that builds empathy (often singing and dancing). This is a helpful link on empathy:

<https://www.npr.org/2015/03/27/395039920/how-can-playing-a-game-make-you-more-empathetic?t=1552080581254>

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:**

Once we are gathered we bring our lives before God again. This is an act of confession, but not because God does not know what we have been up to. Our confession allows us to be honest to ourselves before God and to be reminded of His grace, forgiveness and ongoing love for us.

### **GOD'S WORD:**

Reading and then explaining the meaning of a bible passage can take many forms. Performances, illustrations, dialogues, and parables can all be used to help bring out the meaning of a passage. However it is vital to remember that God's word was Jesus. Therefore a passage should never be isolated from Jesus life, death and resurrection. This context of God's self sacrificing love should be the lense through which we read and the crechendo which we celebrate when we encounter the bible.

### **INTERCESSIONS**

These are a specific form of prayer where we are asking God to intercede, to act in the world. They are a prayer on behalf of the gathered people about issues that matter to them, but also about situations in the wider world. They are normally divided into three broad areas, each one punctuated by a call and response such as: Lord in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

### **SENDING OUT:**

Finally we are sent back out into the world with a final celebration, refueled and ready to go!

## **Integration with the school day (worship as the heartbeat of everything)**

You can think of each of these elements as part of a flowing pattern of liturgy that reflects the very earliest forms of Christian liturgy. It is important to try and include them all in an act of worship, because **how we worship God influences our understanding of God.**

For this reason, it is important that both the content and the style of worship reflect the character of God that you wish to convey. Think about this in relation to the schools core values - are they expressed in the choice of music, the tone of the service, the message of the talk, and the content of the prayers.

It is also important to then see that this pattern of liturgy can be reflected in the broader pattern of daily life. The components of worship are reflected again in many of the regular activities in the school day, and if the day is viewed through this lense then there can be a much deeper integration between specific worship services and the broader activities of the school, for example:

**Gathering** - used for building empathy, team spirit, and confidence. Gathering activities are inclusive group activities that should involve collective physical expression and action (singing, dancing, moving). In times of collective worship these should be directed towards God, but can also be used before other activities or at the beginning of the day to set a positive tone, focus attention and prepare groups to act together. An example of this was collective singing about personal empowerment and self worth before SATs.

**Confession** - This is an acknowledgement of having missed the mark of hoped for behaviour and that we live in a relationship of love and forgiveness where we have the opportunity to turn back towards God again. This is part of the regular practice of worship that recognises our flawed human nature and God's continued grace, but can also be re enacted in the context of disruptive behaviour. In conflicts between pupils it could also include elements of 'the peace' as part of the reconciliation process

**Word** - The reading of passages from the Bible is also a useful way of framing events and preparing for upcoming tasks. It can again be used at the beginning of the day or before a particular activity. Where the passage is being read without further exposition the focus should be on readings that express the relationship between people and God as one that is loving, nurturing and forgiving.

**Intercessions** - issues in the world that are covered in the curriculum can all become sources for intercession. In each instance we can think of human responses, but also of our request for God to act. These can come as reflections at the end of a lesson on a particular subject and then gathered for use in collective worship.

**Sending-** can be used to frame the exit from school each day, providing perspective and framing of the coming time and their role in it - home life, weekends, holidays etc. This can place all the coming events in the context of loving and serving the Lord, looking for opportunities to live out the values expressed during worship and school life.