



PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



Collective Worship

Ideas for Engaging

Based on the revised SIAMS inspection schedule for collective worship that references four “key elements” of worship Gathering, Engagement, Responding and Conclusion. How do we engage the assembled children and adults so they can focus on the theme / content of our talk / presentation / worship?

SAFETY NOTE

Make sure that any activity is safe. E.g. the use of candles in worship is common make sure there are clear guidelines about the lighting, handling and extinguishing of candles.

Some engaging ideas:

Rule number 1 – do not leave your amazing skills as a teacher at the hall door.

Unlike Church - school worship does not have a rigid liturgy; we can be incredibly creative in our presentational style.

Rule number 2 – always know what you want the children and adults to take away. Do not get distracted by a stunning presentational idea. Find the style to suit the message you want to convey.

- Gathering provided you with the first opportunity to raise the curiosity of those assembled. The imagery the music, perhaps the fragrance you used (burning an incense joss stick) can be used to start the engagement now play on.
- Ask questions about the image / music / fragrance
- Find out what the children already know (we sometimes tell a Biblical story that most of the children know quite well, rather than reading or telling get the children to help you retell the story. Their own words can provide you with profound insights.
- Tell a story from your own childhood.
- If you can play an instrument – mine your talents.
- If you can paint or draw – use these skills in telling the story.
- Use volunteers.
- Use simple props, using 4 strips of cardboard held together with paper fasteners you can retell the story of Jesus Healing The Paralysed Man.
- Use video clips, try <http://jesuswonder.org/> as a resource.
- Talk to your vicar / lay ministers about Bible telling resources such as “Open The Book” a dramatic way of telling Bible stories that involves adults and children.
- Use props – a closed box that you carefully place behind you, and while you start telling the story you keep looking over your shoulder – but you don’t say anything about it. The children will be desperate to know “What’s in the box?”
- Create a sacred space, as much of a circle of children as you can make in the hall and sit in the floor at their level. Talk in a low voice so everyone has to work hard to hear.
- Use Christian meditation techniques see www.wccm.org for information.
- Use the hymn / song to increase blood flow and energise everyone.

From the SIAMS Schedule for Collective Worship 2013

3. The key elements of an act of worship and the extent to which:
 - a. the gathering for worship is enhanced by, for example, music, actions or symbols and by those leading the worship
 - b. the engagement and encouragement of participants is grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
 - c. participants respond in, for example, praise, the use of silence, songs, guided reflection, prayer and also through their actions
 - d. those who lead worship provide an appropriate conclusion to the act of worship

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