



PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



Collective Worship Ideas for Responding

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 allow the children and adults to respond to the theme / content of our talk / presentation / worship?

SAFEGUARDING NOTE

Responding can include information from children that reveals sensitive personal information. Be ready to stop the child before they say too much. You must make sure the headteacher (or designated member of staff) takes note and you have confidence that there will be follow up.

Some responding ideas:

- When / if you ask a question responding can be:
 - think about this in your head
 - talk to the person beside you (talking partner) give the children 20 seconds and swap
 - gather an answer from year R then year 1 then year 2 and so on
 - hold your answer in your head and see if you had the right idea as the story continues
 - expect the unexpected and allow for these obscure responses
- Responding can be quiet – is this your preferred style? What will work best for the subject / children?
- Responding can be noisy – is this your preferred style? Can you successfully restore calm?
- Responding can be allowing the children to tell the story for / with you.
 - If you are using a well known Biblical story, rather than telling it all yourself ask the children what comes next. This is both engaging and responding.
- Can the response be an action rather than words? How can you show compassion to this person, show me in a mime?
- The response could be a spontaneous prayer said out loud to a partner, to everyone.
- Singing an appropriate song could be the best response possible.
- Responding might be private as we all listen to a piece of music or look at an image or at a candle flame.
- A collective response might be asking what we can do as a school to make a difference in the context of the theme. Gathering the ideas and offering them to the school leadership as an opportunity might be appropriate. Do ask first if this would be acceptable.
- Asking the children to show work that they have done in class the week before. You have to set this up.

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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