



# PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



## Collective Worship

## Ideas for Sending

Based on the revised SIAMS inspection schedule for collective worship that references four “key elements” of worship of Gathering, Engagement, Responding and Conclusion. How do we ensure the children leave the worship with a simple / single thought that could have an impact on the rest of their day or even their life?

## SAFEGUARDING NOTE

Make sure anything you ask the children to do as a response does not put them at risk.

### Some sending ideas:

SENDING should be your starting point for every worship. Always ask yourself

- “What do I want the children / adults to take away?”
- “What impact do I want the content of the worship to have on the lives of the children and adults?”
- Remember that church schools are not church, remaining invitational and inclusive means that whilst we share the message of Christianity, school worship is not a gathering of Christians. Sending them off to do God’s work or saying “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord” could be inappropriate and or offensive.
- Some sending may be personal to the individual and some may be outward to others and involve a school wide response.

You could:

- ask children to share a smile with someone they know or like
- ask children to share a smile with someone they don’t know or like
- use a final prayer to sow the seed you want – make sure the language you use can be understood by the 4 year old in front of you
- empower the children “Remember, although you might be small or very young compared to us adults, you can change the world by what you do today
- reference the way you gathered the children “Dear God, show us who you are and how you want us to be.” As you leave today, what have you learned about the message God wants human beings to be. Does it affect you?
- ask them to think how they treat others while they work, play in school and how they behave in school
- ask them to be courageous in defending others in class against unkindness from others
- ask them to spot others being kind and be courageous enough to tell them
  - ask them to organise a chart in class to catch all the times when kindnesses are spotted
- ask them to look out for a charity that might need support
- ask them to think of ways in which the school could help others in the local or world community
- ASK THE CHILDREN WHAT THEY THINK THE SENDING MESSAGE SHOULD BE TODAY

### 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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