

## **Community Collective Worship – Teacher Guidance (EYFS, 1)**

Start with a **Friendship Game**, either one from this list or another one that you like using.

If the children aren't sure of everyone's names yet, then focus on using and remembering these.

- E.g. give everyone a coloured cube and ask them to find other children with the same colour and make a group together. Different people can still have things in common. You could use farm animals, or anything else you have to hand in your classroom. You can also do this with matching pairs of socks, if you have enough different colours and patterns for everyone to find a partner. It's good for mixing children up and thinking about other people in the class.
- The beanbag game: sit in a circle, throw a beanbag to someone (or roll a ball) and say why they're a good friend. That child throws the beanbag to someone else and says something they like about them – and so on.
- Pass the Smile: sit in a circle and smile at the first child. They make eye contact with the child next to them and pass the smile on. And so on round the circle. You can also pass a nod or a wink, or other facial expressions.
- Pass the teddy: Tell them that the teddy is happy because their friend sat with them at lunchtime. The children pass the teddy round and everyone says something that they appreciate about a friend. They can only talk when they're holding the teddy.
- Hello My Friend: Sit a child in the centre of the circle with their eyes closed or a blindfold. One of the children comes up to them and says, 'Hello my friend, do you know who I am?' If they guess correctly, then that child sits in the middle, if not then the games continues with another child.

### **Gathering**

**Slide 1** Start worship in your usual way, e.g. lighting a candle, saying the school prayer etc. You may have special resources that you get out so that the children know that this is a special time.

### **Engaging**

**Slide 2** Today we're thinking about friends. Who here has a special friend?

Does a friend have to be somebody like me?

Show the Friendship video from Cbeebies ['What's the Big Idea?'](#)

**Slide 3** Sometimes friends are just like us – who has a friend who's the same as them?

**Slide 4** Some are completely different – who has a friend who's different?

Talk about what makes a good friend, and how we can be good friends to the other children in our class.

### **Responding**

Ask the children to sit quietly and think about how they can be a good friend to other children in the class.

**Slide 6** Prayer is a way of talking to God, just like talking to a friend.

Ask the children to listen while you read this prayer.

'Amen' means 'I agree,' so invite them to say 'Amen' at the end if they agree with the words.

Dear God,  
Thank you for giving us friends.  
Thank you for the fun we have together.  
Please help us to be a good friend to other children.  
Amen.

**Slide 7** If your class have been in collective worship with the older children and have heard this song already, you could play ['Life is Always Better'](#) (the flourishing song) to finish your class worship time. Explain to them that it's all about having friends and getting on with other people.

Alternatively, there may be a song your children already know about friendship, such as the [Cbeebies Friendship Song](#), or [Friends, Friends 1,2,3](#)

## Sending

Ask the children to try really hard today – and the rest of the week – to be good friends to the rest of the class. Tell them that you'll be looking out for children who are especially thoughtful and helpful, who play nicely together or take turns and share.

**Follow up activities:** You may like to do one or more of these activities (or one of your own ideas) to reinforce the idea of friendship.

- Paint or draw a picture of a friend (this could include a pet or a toy, as in the video).
- Make a display out of handprints, to show that in some ways we're all different and in some ways we're all the same, but we can all be friends.
- Make a simple friendship bracelet.
- Make a paper chain with the name of each child and a reason why they're a good friend.
- Or make a paper doll chain with the children's ideas about how to be a good friend.
- Share some books about friendship, such as *The Rainbow Fish*, *Beegu*, *Elmer's Friends*, *Duck and Penguin are not Friends*, *My Friend Fred* etc
- Hand out friendship awards when you spot children sharing, taking turns, being kind to each other, including others in their games etc.

