



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



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September 2011

Dear Ex-Officio

A conversation with one of the Archdeacons within our two dioceses prompted me to offer to email Collective Worship ideas to clergy with Church Schools in their parishes over the forthcoming academic year.

Last year I emailed Headteachers every Friday with thoughts and references that focussed on celebrating the 200 years of the National Society and their role in developing schools in this country. My list, '**53 ideas for your school to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Society**' which can be found half way down this webpage [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/what we do/education/](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/education/), was supplemented during the year with other ideas to help headteachers focus on developing the distinctive Christian character of their school.

This year I will attempt to send a Collective Worship idea to all school clergy on a Friday morning for a Collective Worship in the following week. You are welcome to use / modify / ignore them as you see fit.

The Collective Worship ideas are likely to be starting points, I will try to keep them Anglican i.e. based on the Gospel reading from the Sunday before whilst using the cycle of church festivals as appropriate.

I will also keep the ideas linked to three major themes, '**Our Shared Christian Values**', '**Worship**' and '**Service**'. These can be summed up as **IN**, **UP** and **OUT**. A further explanation of this is on page 2 of this letter.

My reason for promoting this model is the simplicity of the image and content. As Church Schools usually serve their communities rather than just a parish congregation, a large number of the children and adults we work with will not be Christians. As the children can be as young as 4, we need to ensure there is clarity to the Christian message they receive in school. This, however, does not mean we should ignore the difficult or hard stories of our faith. If we only dealt with the easy and comfortable we would deny the children the realities of life.

Many schools are using Values for Life from Jumping Fish [www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish/) which links to SEAL Values (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and for this or other reasons you may find you are tied to prescribed themes, so using your own or ideas from the Diocese might not be straightforward.

There are also many Websites which offer ideas, my personal favourite is <http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/> from the Culham Institute. This term click on the Red Square 'autumn term programme'. You can also search for prayers and through the back catalogue of Collective Worships. You may find these and other sources far superior to the ideas I send out.

I would also recommend parishes look at 'Open the Book' [www.openthebook.net/](http://www.openthebook.net/) to develop a team of parishioners to work in schools offering an exciting way of offering Bible stories to children. There are also some schools using 'Godly Play' techniques for smaller groups.

And Finally

If you have 'good ideas' you are willing to share, I would be happy to promote these either through the emails or on our website – so do email me.

Please get in contact with us if you have questions about Worship, Distinctiveness and any matters relating to your work with schools. Our School Advisers include Tony Blackshaw, Joyce Johnson and myself; between us we have around 90 years experience of working in schools as teachers and headteachers. We know we do not have the answers to every issue but we can listen and offer advice and support. We share a great privilege, working with young people and adults in schools that are rooted in Christian values. This makes them distinctive and different; our challenge is supporting the schools to manifest this great legacy for the communities they serve today and into the future.

Yours sincerely

School Adviser

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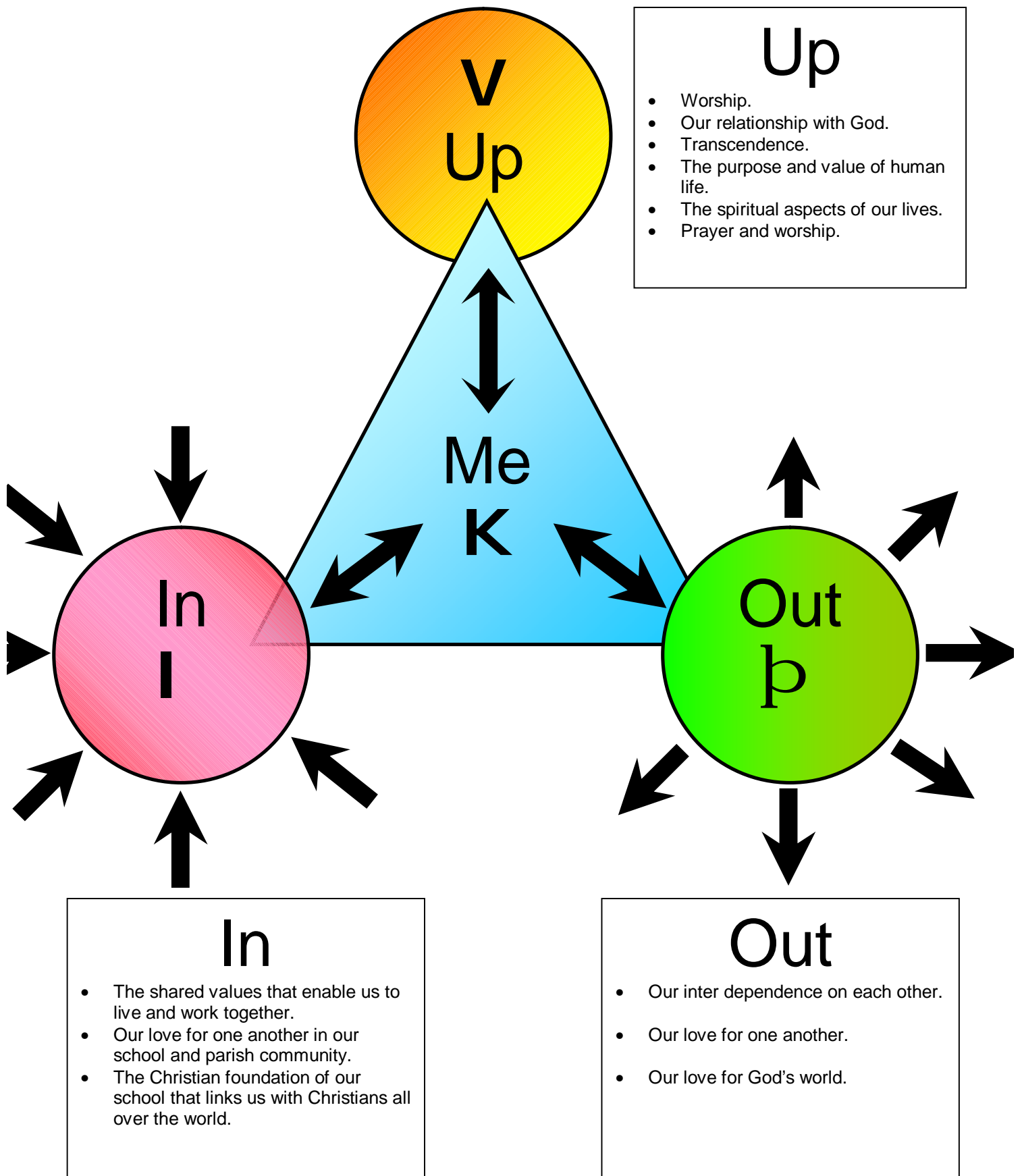
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# A pictorial view of the purpose of a Church of England school.



\* Adapted from the work of staff, pupils and clergy at Hordle CE Primary School