**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE Coordinators**

(and please forward to anyone who may find the resource useful at this time of national mourning)

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               8th September 2022**

**Re           :              Worship resource for schools and parishes on the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II**

Dear colleagues in schools and parishes

This is a hugely significant and poignant time in the history of this nation and indeed, in many countries beyond our shores. Our role as representatives and members of the Established Church in our country at this time is important. What, how and when we reflect on the death of Her Majesty The Queen will impact on those with whom we serve and learn, and consequently on their communities and families. Thank you for holding this responsibility.

Collectively we give thanks for Her Majesty’s service and life, and pray for her family and the nation, for the King and consort.

In our schools and children’s groups in parishes, we are always conscious of being sensitive to age-appropriateness of our messages and resources, and mindful of the particular context in which we are situated. As we have discussed, even very recently at the Termly Briefings when we received a presentation on dealing with death and bereavement in families and schools, it is important and known to be correct in psychological terms, that we do not euphemise, but refer to the Queen’s ‘death’.

In Christian contexts, death however, is not the end – expressing this to children is also important. It is particularly relevant now that our resources on the Christian value of Hope are helpful (these and more on our websites). Christians embrace the Biblical teaching on Hope, which is not the same as the secular version, which is often understood as ‘wishful thinking’. Hope in an eternal life is, in Christian terms, secure and embraced.

A worship resource is attached for you to use either in a whole-school or class context. Parishes may choose to use this in Children’s Church or Children/Young People’s groups. Notes, prayers and comments are under each slide in the Powerpoint. We know that you will use music and songs that are appropriate and helpful in your own context. Please feel free to share this email and the attachments with anyone who might find it helpful.

The PPT presentations are the same, apart from the relevant Diocesan crest on each, and a slide with a photograph on the Queen visiting the relevant diocese – so please use the version for your diocese.

We are happy to support you in any way that might be helpful – feel free to contact us.

With my thanks and blessings for your presence and care at this time.

*Jeff*

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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Diocese of PORTSMOUTH

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