

**Collective Worship**

**In advance**

* Choose a Christian value and theme / select the main resource / decide on the ‘treasured thought’ or key message.
* Give thought on how to encourage children to gain a sense of:
  + Space – where CW takes place / seating
  + Community – parents / church members / local business/shops /governors / staff
  + Wonder – time to think / touching emotions, engaging senses
  + Christian tradition – songs / symbols / prayers / church seasonal colours

**Ingredients**

1. Gathering together
2. Engaging together
3. Responding together
4. Leaving together

**Gathering together (1)** [focussing on the theme]

* Appropriate music as children arrive
* A visual focus – reflective station
* A clear beginning – candle / drum / cymbals / rain shaker – something signifying this is a special time together where we can think about God/Jesus
* An opening statement (with response!) eg ‘May God’s peace be with you’ / ‘May Gods peace be with all of us’

**Engaging together (2)** [exploring the theme]

* Refer to visual focus
* Through story
  + Bible / personal stories to yourself or about other people
  + Story/poem from literature
  + Plays/drama/quiz/video clip

**Responding together (3)** [thinking about the theme]

* Silent response – visualisation / listening / watching (dance/mime/drama/puppets)
* Spoken response – Christian song / agreement (amen) / prayer (school prayer/traditional/made up prayer)
* Action response – receiving something / giving something / writing / drawing
* Reflection/thinking time/to be mindful of – before the prayer – what might this mean for me? (link to the ‘treasured thought’)

**Leaving together (4)** [living out the theme]

* Prayer of blessing – statement with response
* A clear ending – visual (candle extinguished) / aural (chime/bell) / kinaesthetic (singing)
* Appropriate music – listened to/singing to
* Practical application - something to: think about / do / say

**Some final thoughts:**

* Collective worship – ‘touching emotions and engaging the senses’
* Be mindful that there will be children with widely differing family belief views
* Invite pupils to join in with a prayer and to respond by saying ‘Amen’ if they agree with the prayer. This can be done by saying, ‘I am going to say a prayer to God. Please close your eyes and feel free to respond at the end with the word ‘Amen’ if you wish.’
* It is good practice to use the words, ‘This is what many Christians believe and do.’
* It is a privilege to share the concept of the possibility of a loving God, as seen through the Christian tradition
* Enjoy and have fun!