



'Bubbled' Collective Worship Guidance

A briefing for Heads and leaders of Collective Worship in church schools.

Introduction

With the advent of 'bubbled' classes, under current Government guidance whole school collective worship has been suspended. This guide is to help schools plan for worship in your classrooms that works and is still meaningful for both pupils and staff.

Key points to consider

- Collective worship is still a legal expectation in all maintained schools, for a daily act of 'broadly or mainly Christian act of worship', which must also reflect the Anglican tradition in church schools.
- Pupils still have the right to withdraw from worship.
- Although staff have the right to withdraw from leading worship they can still facilitate it e.g. play the video for the pupils, and ask pupils to lead a prayer, pupils or TAs could lead it as an alternative.
- Speak to your member of clergy to discuss the pattern of worship and to explore whether they are able to record a weekly worship session to use in classes (check with your Open the Book team too).
- Corporate singing is still considered a high risk activity so should not happen unless you have mitigated the risks following the latest government guidance
- There are fantastic worship resources online, both free and subscription based, that are usable in the classroom and more being released each week (see below).
- Use a consistent name for your worship times across the school, this will help in discussions for evaluation later.

Sample Timetable for Worship Bubbles

Decide on a time slot to suit each class timetable. There is no minimum time, but it does need to be meaningful. (see Worship through the day below, this should be allocated on the timetable so it is actively included (but be flexible). After a break or lunch, is a good time slot as it provides a transition back into the classroom and time to set the focus up.

Above all be creative. If it's sunny or you have a covered outdoor area, you could worship outside (and use music following the current government guidance). Classes could also be asked to record a worship assembly to be shown to other classes, once a term.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
#Faith at Home (released on a Friday) (Oak National Academy partnered with the Church of England weekly video worship session– links listed below)	Teacher / TA led (Resources available detailed below)	Clergy led (Either sharing via an online platform/video or through visiting individual classes – depending on your COVID-19 policies)	Pupil led Adapting materials from below.	Headteacher/SLT led Celebration assembly. (Either shared via your online platform, prerecord it or visit each class over the day to present awards to the class)



Benefits of bubble based worship

- It can be organised at a time of day which best suits the needs of the group
- No time is lost in the timetable in travelling around school or waiting for other classes
- The worship will be developed in a way appropriate to their age and abilities
- The atmosphere can be more personal and sensitive to pupils' needs
- Time can more easily be spent on quiet reflection with less distractions
- Pupils will be more confident about sharing personal experiences and asking questions when the "audience" is smaller.
- Pupils can develop their leadership role in the classroom.

Making it meaningful in the classroom

- The worship time needs to feel different to other lesson time. See Worship Focus
- Use a class worship journal to keep a simple record of what they did, prayers, you could include photos too. Pupils should take ownership of this (it could be a class job for a couple of pupils to complete) This will also help for evaluation where visitors can't come in to see the acts of worship e.g. Foundation Governors. This could be kept digitally so different pupils can access it safely and allow it to be shared more easily.
- Some schools have used a 'quiet worship time' sign on their door to remind staff and pupils on their way in.

Worship Focus

- If you have the space set up a worship focus table or use a box with the items in that can be put out at the start of the session (a pupil could be responsible for this).
- You could use the interactive whiteboard with a video candle or cross, but having the real symbol in the room is more effective.
- Use a candle (with supervision) (floating candles may be safer)
- Use a cross to remind everyone of the school's Christian basis.
- Keep the props for that week's story/theme in the box e.g. a sheep toy.
- Many classrooms already have a prayer box or tree. A simple prayer line (washing line with named pegs) would enable pupils to put their own prayers up. There are lots of ideas on www.prayerspacesinschools.com that can be adapted for your classroom. These could also form a reflection area for your classroom.
- To keep the togetherness of your worship, use the familiar prayers from your whole school worship.

For further support we would recommend reading the helpful booklet produced by the Suffolk Diocese - [Bubble based CW: guidance for Autumn term 2020](#) | PDF

Suggested Resources

You will already have some collective worship resources in school such as the Imaginor Roots and Fruits series which can be used for one session a week. For younger children the Jack in a box and Out of the Box resources are also fantastic. Teachers should easily be able to adapt any published resources to work in their 'bubble'.

Don't forget that sometimes just reading a Bible story and a simple reflective question based on the theme.



The following list gives resources you may consider. Many are free, but we've indicated those requiring a paid subscription.

FaithAtHome – Church of England produced collective worship (starts 28th Sept) Also includes links for school leaders dealing with loss and bereavement during this time (including sessions on Grief for schools)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>

Godly Play collective worship Autumn 2020 designed for classroom use. Focussed on creating a safe reflective space as pupils return to school - <https://www.godlyplay.uk/>

Worship Workshop - Church of England site for planning worship based on seasons or values. You will need to register and then to adapt the materials to suit your bubble age ranges - <https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/>

Blackburn Diocese – downloadable worship resource packs (primary and secondary, that can be delivered in class easily -

<https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/schools/teacher/collective-worship/primary-school-colective-worship/>

Free Bible Images - A great website with hundreds of sets of presentation ready images to illustrate Bible stories in different genres including manga. Easy to use and download a set of images. Do check they match your retelling, and if needed edit the order in programs such as PowerPoint. Some come with a Bible script too - <http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

Collectiveworship.com (Welsh and English) - Offers free downloadable worship plans in Word with accompanying PowerPoint presentations - <http://www.collectiveworship.com/>

Pace Assemblies (short reflections, a prayer and a Bible story) -

<https://thepacetrust.blogspot.com/2020/05/assembly-videos-for-primary-schools.html>

Two Minute Twist – online – 2 minute puppet led question based reflections-

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLaFKOWyKFFkuvG4shkG8-g?view_as=subscriber

Spinnaker Trust - Easy to deliver assembly packs adaptable for classrooms, with accompanying video materials - <https://www.spinnaker.org.uk/>

KidsUk – Andy Markham – Collective worship emailed to your school video based with print out etc info@kidsuk.org or to find out more - <https://youtu.be/ngRyLZKsBHY>

True Tube - has several assemblies to offer and should work in schools no able to access youtube directly - <https://www.truetube.co.uk/>

Flame Creative - Great ideas for using crafts and prayers to teach Bible verses in a reflective way (Messy Church style resources) - <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/>

iSingPop: Classroom **Worship** (subscription) – weekly sessions. See trial and find out more here - <https://www.isingpop.org/classroom-worship>



Big Start Assemblies (subscription) - Online worship with planning guide to use in schools could be adapted for classroom (special offer for churches to sponsor schools and use the videos for church too) - <https://bigstartassemblies.org/>

Impact Assemblies (fee based) – themed packs of assemblies - <https://www.assembly-ideas.com/>

Picture News (subscription based) - Sends through an assembly each week using current news items to stimulate thinking, discussion and then prayer/reflection - <https://www.picture-news.co.uk/>

Help with YouTube

Many schools are unable to stream Youtube videos in classroom due to IT online safety policies. If you speak to your IT team they may have a solution using software or an online downloader that you can use to show a video without the streaming risks. There is a useful curated list of online and software YouTube downloaders at <https://uk.pcmag.com/how-to/40004/how-to-download-youtube-videos> that are reviewed regularly. Please ensure you are not breaching any copyright.

If you find other useful resources do tell us so we can update this list and share them with other schools. We also have our own Twitter feed [@HDioceseSchools](https://twitter.com/HDioceseSchools) and [Facebook page](#) where we post updates on ideas and events for schools.