

### Educational purpose of collective worship

*This was developed with a group of secondary collective worship leads. It is not policy or exhaustive but might be helpful as a discussion starter*

It was suggested that worship could provide the 'Metacognition starter for the day'

*Metacognition is "cognition about cognition", "thinking about thinking", "knowing about knowing", becoming "aware of one's awareness" and higher-order thinking skills. (Wikipedia)*

The following ideas emerged. It was felt that worship might be fulfilling the following purposes:

- a. Developing knowledge and understanding: worship could help pupils know and understand
  - The values and ethos of the school
  - The role of faith in the community, local national and international
  - Biblical teaching often countering social media images, messages and stereotypes.
  - An understanding of spirituality and an appreciation of what it means to be part of a faith community
- b. Developing skills: It was felt that collective worship was an opportunity to develop the following skills
  - The ability to experience and enjoy periods of quiet and stillness
  - Through leading in worship pupils will develop skills of presentation leading to increased self confidence
  - Through the evaluation of worship an opportunity to express and reflect pupil voice, critical analysis and feedback
  - Skills of reflection: looking at unfairness and having the opportunity to respond.
  - Equipping pupils to know how to respond in times of difficulty either as individuals or community's. Developing coping skills as both students and as adults.
  - Developing empathy for others
  - The use of worship journals give opportunity for skills of journaling to be developed
- c. Values:
  - An opportunity to raise pupil horizons
  - Raising pupil self esteem
  - Affirmation of personal value and the values of others
  - Helping create a cohesive society especially in diverse communities

- d. Others: some other very important and unique aspects of collective worship
- Providing a sense of belonging in a dysfunctional community
  - Countering entrenched often family inspired attitudes to race, gender, sexual identity, religion etc in young people
  - Contributing to the mental health and wellbeing of pupils (and staff).
  - Providing more breadth to a 'broad and balance curriculum'
  - Challenging a view that 'the world revolves around me'

All this is in addition to the general purposes of worship.

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