

‘In conversation with Rebecca Swansbury’: Pupil-led worship

Top Tips and Take-Aways

Rebecca’s top tips and wisdom	Questions to reflect on as a school
‘Children are active agents who walk with adults on the journey of life...Children are spiritual pilgrims who march through life as they seek God, ask questions, discover answers and wonder about what lies ahead of them’ (Robert Coles). 	• How does/might pupil-led worship enrich collective worship in your school? • Do you think giving opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship is important? Why? Why not?
Invest time in establishing and training a pupil-led worship group. Explore: • What worship is • Different roles in leading worship • What happens in CW • How different people like to worship • How to plan it • Strategies to lead CW You might also like to spend some time observing worship and discussing your reflections. 	• In what ways might taking time to explore these questions be useful for a pupil-led worship group? • What might some of the teething problems be? How could these be overcome? • What else resonated from Rebecca’s overview? What are your main takeaways?
‘Before you start, think about the practicalities: - When will you hold the group? - How often? - Where will you meet? - How many pupils? How is pupil-led worship driven from your distinctive Christian vision?’ 	• What would the practicalities be in your context? • How is pupil-led worship driven from your school’s distinctive Christian vision?

The following might be useful for those wishing to explore pupil-led worship further:

- Rebecca Swansbury. *William and Lucy lead collective worship*:
<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandyoungpeople/our-schools/collective-worship/william-lucy-lead-collective-worship/>
- Diocese of Suffolk. *Letting the Children Lead: Working on Worship 13*:
<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/>
- Flippin' Praise. <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/>
- Church of England Education Office. *Spiritual Development: Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom* (2019): <https://tinyurl.com/wrnfvc2>
- SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, Strands 2 and 7: <https://tinyurl.com/4fd6jv7s>

If you'd like to discuss aspects of collective worship further, please contact Ryan Parker (RE and Christian Ethos Adviser) – rparker@stalbens.anglican.org.