

‘In conversation with Jamie Prouse’: Prayer in Schools

Top Tips and Take-Aways

Jamie’s top tips and wisdom	Questions to reflect on as a school
‘In its simplest form, prayer is a conversation with God...talking to God about anything and everything, not just when something has gone wrong or we want something...It’s a time to share what’s on your heart, your mind... [underpinned by] hope’	Is there a shared understanding of prayer across staff? Pupils? Would a shared understanding enrich opportunities for spiritual development?
All may choose to pray and/or reflect in their own way. Why not have an intentional spiritual space where pupils can pray and/or reflect in a way which is meaningful for them?	- Are there opportunities for pupils to grow spiritually through varied experiences of prayer – collective, individual, structured, spontaneous, silent, loud, creative etc.? - How is this/might this be approached in your context?
Prayer is central within how our school vision is lived and loved – ‘Let your shine before others’ (Matthew 5:14). Prayer can be a stepping stone; a call to action. ‘We all have a light that we should not hide under a bushel’.	How is prayer seen within your school’s distinctive Christian vision? To what extent is it seen as an integral part of the life of the school?

The following might be useful for those wishing to explore prayer in schools further:

- Jamie Prouse. *A collection of prayers for schools*: <https://veritecm.com/product/prayers-for-school>
- Diocese of Suffolk, *Working on Worship*:
 - Using the Lord’s Prayer - <https://tinyurl.com/3ybww2sa>
 - Time to think, time to pray - <https://tinyurl.com/4e76jmy3>
 - Prayer Spaces in School - <https://tinyurl.com/xk8wy7pc>
- Church of England Education Office. *Spiritual Development: Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom* (2019): <https://tinyurl.com/wrnfv2>
- SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, Strand 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@stalbans.anglican.org.