

‘In conversation with Gill Hipwell’: Connecting the Jigsaw of Collective Worship from Monday to Friday

Top Tips and Take-Aways

Gill’s top tips and wisdom	Questions to reflect on as a school
Before thinking about weekly collective worship provision, to think deeply about the ‘why’: ‘What’s your vision for collective worship?’ ‘What is the purpose of collective worship for <i>our</i> school in <i>our</i> context?’ 	• What is your school’s vision for collective worship? • How is collective worship seen as an expression of the school’s distinctive Christian vision? • Is this ‘why’ shared and known by all staff? By governors? Pupils? Visitors who lead collective worship?
After this vision has been considered, think next about the structure of each act of collective worship: Space Gather Engage Respond Send  This framework can remain the same, but take a different flavour ‘depending on the person leading it and the purpose of that particular collective worship’.	• Do you think having a common framework across all acts of collective worship is/might be useful? • How important do you think ‘preparing the space’ is for collective worship? • How could each space be prepared to show this is a special and distinctive place for collective worship? • How useful might it be to draw on different leader’s strengths when it comes to planning and facilitating collective worship?
When thinking about collective worship from Monday to Friday, important to remember that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’. Collective worship needs to be something which is appropriate and meaningful for school. Look at collective worship over the whole week: - What might take place each day? - How might this play to different leader’s strengths? - How can each CW build on the previous acts of worship/inspire the others?	• Is there a clear sense of how each act of collective worship fit together across a week? Is this known by all? • Do those planning/leading collective worship know how their ‘piece’ fits and connects within the weekly offer? In what ways might this be useful?

Strand 6 of the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule might be useful for those wishing to explore some of these ideas further: https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-04/SIAMS%20Evaluation%20Schedule%202018_0.pdf.

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