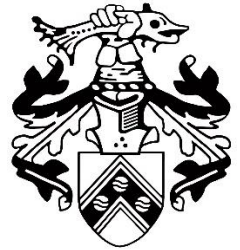


# Children's Voice: Termly Evaluation of Collective Worship

By: TW and LJ

Date: 26.04.17



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How did it make you feel?</li><li>- What did it make you think about?</li><li>- What has it helped you understand about God?</li><li>- Have you learnt anything new about yourself?</li><li>- Do you think you will behave differently?</li><li>- Did it give you things to think about?</li><li>- Did it give you a chance to pray if you wanted?</li><li>- Do you want to ask anything about what you heard / saw / thought?</li><li>- Did you enjoy it? Why?</li><li>- What is good about school worship?</li><li>- Can you tell me about an act of worship you especially enjoyed?</li><li>- Can you tell me about an act of worship that has made you think</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. TW asked children to talk about the assemblies they have each week.</li><li>2. Monday- News, letters, Star of the week, athletics awards.</li><li>3. Tuesday- Things that are going wrong in school, sometimes a specific presentation e.g. on sugar</li><li>4. Thursday- Stories, hymns announcements, activities, singing, at special times of the year we sing songs for particular events e.g. about homelessness or to help people in need.</li><li>5. Friday- subject assembly. These are sometimes related to History, PE or Science.</li><li>6. Wednesday assembly- We go to church, say prayers at the start and in the middle of assembly.</li><li>7. In assembly we talk about love and Christian values. Sometimes assemblies are linked to special festival or celebration in the calendar. We listen to stories about things that are significant.</li><li>8. Widow's mite. 'I learnt that it doesn't matter how much you give, what's important is how much you give in relation to what you have'.</li><li>9. Children felt often had a moral at the end of the story. E.g. they related to life or showing love for each other.</li><li>10. Songs generally related to special events. Children especially like singing Power in Me, Never Give Up.</li><li>11. Most reps enjoyed singing songs. Some explained the Christian message of them.</li><li>12. Children like different sorts of songs. Some enjoyed the older songs as the words were really interesting. One rep didn't like singing because he had to use a louder voice.</li><li>13. One rep explained prayers in church assembly and how children were chosen. Revd Laura Jorgensen asked about prayers in school. Children said that sometimes reads were chosen by the teacher and read out. Other prayers were made up 'in your head'. Children reported that they used class prayer books and different classes said prayers at different times.</li><li>14. Children knew 'most of' the school prayer and the Lord's Prayer.</li></ol>
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<p>and/or do something in a different way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What do you think CW is for?</li><li>- How do you take part in CW?</li><li>- Can you describe any other religious festivals you learn about in CW?</li><li>- What is prayer? Which prayers do you remember and why?</li><li>- What bible stories do you remember from CW?</li><li>- What festivals of the church year do you remember from CW?</li><li>- What are your favourite worship songs and why do you like them?</li><li>- Is there anything you do not like about CW?</li><li>- And so.....How could collective worship be even better?</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>15. Children were confident that you didn't have to pray in a particular way. 'If you don't want to pray or don't have the same way of praying as others, that's fine. You don't have to pray in assembly. No matter what religion you are you are included in assembly'.</li><li>16. One rep particularly enjoyed the assembly where we raised things that were worrying us e.g. the environment, refugees etc., wrote them on post it notes and displayed them throughout the week. 'I learnt that we can't all be perfect in that assembly'</li><li>17. One rep reported that they enjoyed the Class assemblies the most and information assemblies.</li><li>18. TW asked what bible stories children had learnt in assembly and what they had learnt from the stories and readings they had heard.</li><li>19. Jesus calms the storms</li><li>20. Prodigal son- 'I learnt that you might have done something wrong by long is more powerful than anything and you must forgive people you love'.</li><li>21. David and Goliath- Doesn't matter how big or small you are. Shouldn't judge other people. You can do anything despite your size if you put your mind to it.'</li><li>22. Adam and Eve- 'When someone tells you something important you should follow the instruction.</li><li>23. Good Samaritan – 'Care for other people and treat others as we would expect to be treated ourselves'</li><li>24. Noah's Ark- 'If you do good, good things will happen'. Revd Laura Jorgensen followed up this response indicating that the message of the story of Noah's Ark was complicated and that she didn't really agree with the interpretation offered.</li><li>25. Easter- Not just about Chocolates- when Easter came alive.</li><li>26. Children were asked about what improvements could be made to assemblies and collective worship</li><li>27. Children felt that assemblies could be a little too serious at times. More puns and jokes might be good. More acting out of stories.</li><li>28. One rep suggested that it might be useful to watch the news sometimes in assemblies so we knew what was going on around the world.</li></ol>
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29. Children felt that the music in assembly when we gathered was generally very calm and they would like to hear more active music at time. TW asked for the words that they associated with the music played at the moment- 'calm, relaxing and organised.
30. On Monday assembly one rep asked if there could be more opportunities for Cello and Double bass to play.
31. TW asked whether children liked going to Church every week. One rep commented that they sometimes had to rush lessons because of this. Another said that sometimes assemblies could be a little bit long. It was agreed that we will try to alternate assemblies more between school and Church.

## **Action points arising from review**

1. Review the timing of assembly so that some Wednesday assemblies are held in school reducing the amount of time spent getting over the road.
2. Establish some core hymns which are sung regularly in assembly time – send list to Pat.
3. Ask teachers to reflect on how they talk about gathering for collective worship. Children sometimes felt they had to rush work which they didn't want to leave. It's important staff display positive attitudes to collective worship and plan carefully for tasks to be completed in agreed times.
4. Increase the amount of drama and interactive retelling of stories.
5. Make more explicit the greeting, responses, dismissal etc. These aspects of worship didn't come up in the discussions.
6. Ensure children learn new prayers each term.
7. Observe the full range of collective worship throughout the week to ensure it is in line with school policy.