

South Otterington Church of England Primary School
Guidelines for Collective Worship Leaders

All children and staff are expected to participate in our daily act of collective worship which usually takes place between 1.25 and 1.45pm. Each half term, we think about a specific Christian value. The planning is based on 'Values for Life' and 'Roots and Fruits' published by the Diocese of Gloucester. It is shared on the school website and the theme is displayed in the main entrance; hall and in every classroom as part of an interactive reflection area.

The worship leaders will have set up the worship table and we follow the key elements as follows:

1) Gathering:

The children enter the hall in silence. Each class brings their focus object in to worship with them. There is music playing and an image to look at, often with a thought provoking question. This is changed at least weekly. The leader sings/says good afternoon; lights the candle and shares the welcoming words.

2) Engaging:

The worship leader usually tells a story; provides a video to watch or children perform a play. The children are encouraged to participate by answering questions or performing actions or saying words. We always sing a song or hymn preferably linked to the theme.

3) Responding:

We always have a time of reflection. Children sit in silence and are encouraged to close their eyes or look at the candle.

We always have a prayer, again children are encouraged to close their eyes or look at the candle.

4) Sending:

We always close with a blessing. The children are encouraged to keep their eyes open and to say this to one another.

The children leave the hall in silence one class at a time.

There will always be coming in music; an image; blessing and a hymn provided. However, leaders are very welcome to bring their own resources. There are a range of hymns, prayers and blessings available in school on the network. See Common/Collective Worship. There are also prayers available that the children have written themselves on the prayer tree.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Many thanks, Mrs Williamson, Headteacher

All stakeholders are warmly encouraged to provide evaluations of collective worship.