

## Ingredients for Worship

Collective worship is, at its best, an exemplification of the ethos of the school. It is viewed as an integral part of school life and has a high value to all in the community. It is an opportunity to foster a sense of personal and collective spirituality and makes a major contribution to the development of strong Christian values.

Worship will reflect the character of the individual school but there are ingredients that will be common to all. Examples of good practice include:

- a clearly stated appropriate theme.
- music for pupils to enter and leave the room to create an atmosphere of calm and peace.
- singing of hymns which the pupils understand, and which match the theme, and the occasional inclusion of hymns which are also sung in the local church.
- use of visual aids or drama to explain the theme.
- an exciting, short, relevant story, poem or Biblical material.
- interactive involvement of the pupils.
- sung or said prayers (often written by pupils) along with prayers learnt by heart e.g. the Lord's prayer
- moments of reflective silence.
- an ordered but relaxed atmosphere where all pupils feel comfortable to contribute.
- a frequent welcoming of visitors who have been given a clear brief concerning the Act of Worship.
- a focal point for pupils to look at in order to help them realise that an Act of Worship is distinct from the ordinary day.
- the fostering of a sense of community
- an emphasis on the importance of collective worship, seen through the presence of all pupils and staff (unless withdrawn on religious grounds).