

## Collective Worship

### 'Being Together Differently'

Collective worship should always be a highly valued part of school, but right now there is an ever greater need for children and adults to have 'time to breathe' as they come back to a place so familiar, that may feel so different.

Collective worship, if planned carefully and delivered sensitively, will aid the transition of from being at home to returning to school, as well as supporting children and adults to cope with the things they have experienced over the last few months. There is 'no one size fits all' solution and collective worship should embody the vision of your school, however, we offer the guidelines and resources below to help and support those who are new to collective worship and those for whom it is a new era of leading collective worship.

#### What?

Collective worship should still aspire to be '**inclusive, invitational and inspirational**' *SIAMS evaluation schedule 2018*, even if it currently looks a little different. It should still be an enjoyable and uplifting time for adults and young people alike.

**Suggestion:** Have a look at the guidance below and work through each part, looking at how this can look in the current structure you have in school.



#### Inclusive

Exploring themes, values and ideas that are relevant to all

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Being suitable for a range of ages, abilities and faiths and world views

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Drawing on a range of types of presentation, and including traditional and contemporary elements

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Having a range of leaders, some of whom may be involved remotely, (*school staff, clergy, church members, visitors from Christian groups, parents and pupils themselves*)

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Providing a variety of ways in which pupils can participate such as signing, hand actions, sound effects and gestures, responding to questions, reflecting together

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Not having an expectation that everyone will want to worship God, or to worship as in a church service.

## Invitational

Welcoming in an open way

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Appealing to the senses, particularly sight and sound, but sometimes touch

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Providing opportunity for pupils to contribute through role-taking, discussion, responses

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Making clear that requests to join in with positions, and words, of prayer are suggestions, and not instructions.

## Inspirational

Sending out with a question, a thought or an action to perform

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Using creativity and carefully selected creative media to communicate effectively including stories, poems, art and music which engage the pupils' senses

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Incorporating stillness and movement, sound and silence

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Being responsive to the context and the community

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Posing questions that elicit deeper thinking

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Drawing upon wisdom from the Bible and people who are devoted to God for reflection and for prayer

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Creating an atmosphere that allow pupils and adults to worship and reflect

## Where?

It is likely that CW will remain in classrooms or year group bubbles for some time. However, it is possible to think creatively about how to use the space in which you are delivering CW.

See Engage Worship

<https://www.engageworship.org/ideas/outdoor-worship-stations> for some 'worship outside' ideas, and The Sanctuary Centre for others:  
<http://thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/creative-prayer-idea-wild-worship-field-guide.pdf>

### *Questions to think about:*

- How do we arrange the room so pupils know it's time for collective worship?
- What else can we do to show it is time for collective worship? i.e. music, light a candle, school prayer
- How can we incorporate others into collective worship even if they are not in our physical space?
- Can I use outside space? The playground, any grassed or decked area, or field, can be a place where collective worship can happen.

## How?

Collective worship in smaller groups can follow a similar format and content as with larger groups. The difference lies in the style: what many people find with classroom collective worship is that it is much easier to make the material relevant to the age of the

pupils, to explain things about which they have questions, and to listen to what the pupils want to say and share. It is possible to include games and movement, and you can include all participants drawing and writing; activities that are not so easy in a large gathering in the hall.

## Who?

Due to the requirement to teach pupils in bubbles, it is probable the daily acts of worship will be carried out by the teacher or teaching assistant in that bubble or maybe a smaller group of teachers than normal within secondary schools. This could be a daunting responsibility for a teacher who has not done this before therefore the collective worship leader will need to provide support with materials and guidance on structures.

Perhaps staff who are not in school, because they are self-isolating or shielding, could prepare resources for their school – or even for a cluster of schools. This is really a time to share good practice and help each other.

This is a really exciting opportunity for adults to develop the ability to lead CW confidently. It also provides opportunities to develop the ways in which digital technologies can be used to enhance CW and provided connectedness across bubbles.

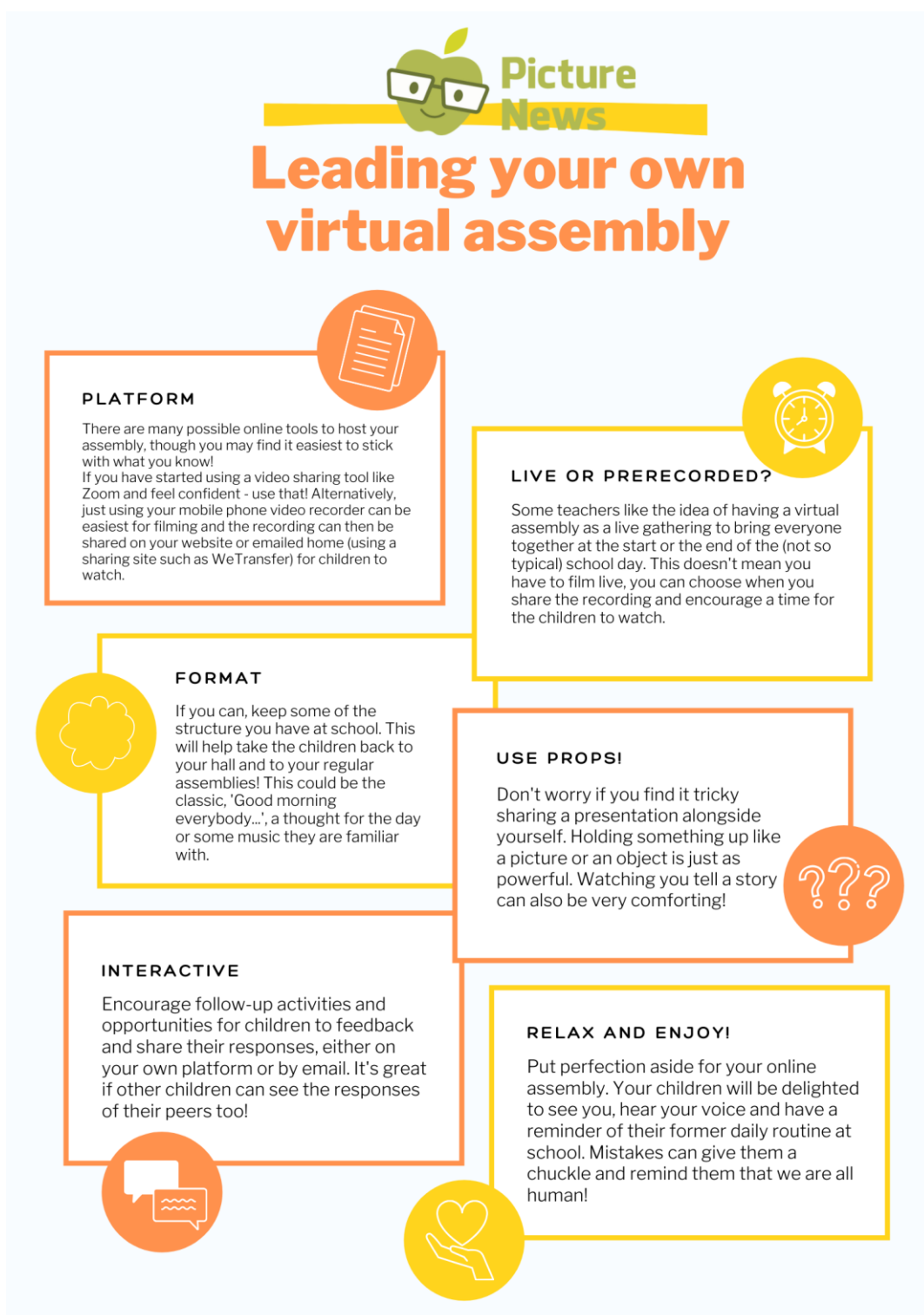
### Questions to think about:

- Can your usual visitors record some elements of collective worship for you? This does not need to be all of your collective worship time but a proportion of it? Perhaps a reflection or Bible story
- How can you enable pupils to lead and evaluate at this time?
- Could each class/ bubble record collective worships that is seen across the school?
- Could you use zoom (or other similar technologies), to enable people lead collective worship live and include some interaction?

For resources for children leading worship go to:

<https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/page/?title=Children+Leading+Worship&pid=77>

Here are some tips provided by Picture News for putting videos together:<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.picture-news.co.uk/>

## Suggested Pattern

<b>Monday</b>	One film for all pupil groups across the school	Introducing Theme/Bible Story
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class/bubble worship led by teacher	Exploring Theme/Bible Story
<b>Wednesday</b>	Message from church leader or external visitor to be used in all classes	Applying Theme/Bible story
<b>Thursday</b>	Pupil led worship (this could be in the class or pre-recorded from different classes for everyone to see)	Links to theme/Bible story e.g. mental health, something in local community
<b>Friday</b>	Whole school Celebration	Sum up theme/Bible story

## Resources

In addition to the places you usually find resources, there are several resources online to help with leading Collective Worship at the moment.

Canterbury diocese has created a freely available resource called Rebuilding Community, this is an excellent start for September:

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandyoungpeople/our-schools/rebuilding-community/>

Guildford diocese generously shares ideas for collective worship for this time:

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/covid-19-resources>

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/covid-19-resources/school-at-home-worship-resources>

London diocese has developed a weekly act of worship for use at home, but which has ideas that would provide the basis for a pupil group act of collective worship

<https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/collective-worship-home-calendar/>

For more help and information please email

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Training opportunities will be provided in the Autumn term for Collective Worship

