Collective Worship training

**Educational purpose of collective worship**

*This was developed with a group of secondary collective worship leads. It is not policy or exhaustive but might be helpful as a discussion starter*

It was suggested that worship could provide the 'Metacognition starter for the day'

*Metacognition is "cognition about cognition", "thinking about thinking", "knowing about knowing", becoming "aware of one's awareness" and higher-order thinking skills.* (Wikipedia)

The following ideas emerged. It was felt that worship might be fulfilling the following purposes:

a. Developing knowledge and understanding: worship could help pupils know and understand
   - The values and ethos of the school
   - The role of faith in the community, local national and international
   - Biblical teaching often countering social media images, messages and stereotypes.
   - An understanding of spirituality and an appreciation of what it means to be part of a faith community

b. Developing skills: It was felt that collective worship was an opportunity to develop the following skills
   - The ability to experience and enjoy periods of quiet and stillness
   - Through leading in worship pupils will develop skills of presentation leading to increased self confidence
   - Through the evaluation of worship an opportunity to express and reflect pupil voice, critical analysis and feedback
   - Skills of reflection: looking at unfairness and having the opportunity to respond.
   - Equipping pupils to know how to respond in times of difficulty either as individuals or community’s. Developing coping skills as both students and as adults.
   - Developing empathy for others
   - The use of worship journals give opportunity for skills of journaling to be developed

c. Values:
   - An opportunity to raise pupil horizons
   - Raising pupil self esteem
   - Affirmation of personal value and the values of others
   - Helping create a cohesive society especially in diverse communities
d. Others: some other very important and unique aspects of collective worship

- Providing a sense of belonging in a dysfunctional community
- Countering entrenched often family inspired attitudes to race, gender, sexual identity, religion etc in young people
- Contributing to the mental health and wellbeing of pupils (and staff).
- Providing more breadth to a ‘broad and balance curriculum’
- Challenging a view that ‘the world revolves around me’

All this is in addition to the general purposes of worship.

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