

## 2. Olympic Values

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are warming up for the Summer Olympics by going back in time and revisiting some Olympic and Paralympic Games from the past. We will share inspirational stories which reflect the six Olympic values of Determination, Excellence, Inspiration, Courage, Friendship and Equality and use them to help us to think about what we can learn from them.



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Many of the Olympic values are shared with those that are familiar to us in school, so throughout this term, we encourage you to link each week's collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values.

Today we are especially thinking about Baron de Coubertin's words about participation, rather than winning.

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **There is also an Olympic 'passport' that you can create using the reflection cards for each week, and to gather some thoughts from your children as you go along. This is in a separate file and could be easily constructed from an A4 or A5 folder with plastic pockets, but will also be included in each week's resources. You could 'stamp' your reflection card each week, just like you would a passport. There is space for this at the top of each card. Use as many as you have time for.**
- **This week, you will need some more volunteers – maybe you could encourage the adults or your Y6 children to help, as they will need to be able to act out (like charades) a selection of different Olympic events. There are suggested cards included in the resources for this week.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** make a class laurel wreath – the original Olympic 'medal'. Provide green leaf shapes for children to use to write on their name / an 'Olympic' achievement for them in their work, and shape these into a class wreath, celebrating your achievements.

### Gathering:

**Slide 1: Use the new gathering words, which will be the same each week.**



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **ALL: May we 'GO FOR GOLD!' in our words and actions today!**

### Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** Last time, we used our Olympic time machine to go back in time to the Ancient Olympic Games, and had a go at javelin and discus throwing, and we heard the legend of Pheidippides.
- **Slide 3:** Today, we're going to be thinking some more about the Olympics and how things are a bit different now to the Ancient Olympic Games. In the Ancient Olympic Games, only athletes from Greece competed against each other – in the Paris 2024 Olympics, there could be competitors from around 206 nations worldwide! We've already found out that in Ancient Greece, there were only five main events, but in the 2024 Olympics, there will be 48 different disciplines (from 32 different sports) taking place.
- As you probably have noticed already, this is the symbol for all things Olympic. We're going to jump into our Olympic time machine again, and find out a bit about this special symbol and about how and why *our* Olympics started.....
- **Slide 4:** We're going back to the year 1894....
- **Slide 5:** ...to Paris, France, which is where this year's Olympics is also taking place.
- **Slide 6:** The modern-day Olympic Games was started by this man, **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**, who saw an opportunity for sport to promote good relationships between nations as they competed with each other, just as had been the case in the Ancient World. He was deeply concerned about schools and was especially interested in P.E. – Physical Education – and the way that it shaped not just the body, but the mind as well. In 1894, he gathered a group of important men together to organize the first proper Olympic Games since 393 CE (that's 393 years after the birth of Jesus).
- **Slide 7:** The five Olympic rings were designed by Baron de Coubertin as a symbol of peace amongst nations. Each ring represents the five different continents of our world – **the Americas** (that's North and



South America), **Asia, Australasia, Africa** and **Europe**. The six colours (white, blue, black, red, yellow and green) were chosen because they appear on all the flags of the competing nations. The rings are linked together to represent the joining of nations. Baron de Coubertin also devised three Olympic Values that he felt should be heart of sport: **respect** for oneself and for others; **excellence** – how to give your best; and **friendship**, understanding each other despite any differences.

- **Slide 8:** For this next part, I need some more keen sporting volunteers / I've asked the teachers to help me. Here at the front / on seats, I have some cards and written on each is a different Olympic sport from Baron de Coubertin's first Olympics in 1896. There were only 9 events back then, you'll be happy to know – not 48 as it will be this year! You've got to mime what you read – that's pretending to do what's on the card, without using any words – and we'll see if everyone here can guess which sport you're taking part in.....
- **Slide 9:** Those nine events will be happening along with 30 other sports this year, and every athlete competing will be doing their best to win an Olympic medal.... gold, silver or bronze. As well as striving to win, Olympic athletes are also expected to uphold Baron de Coubertin's Olympic values in the way that they compete with each other.
- **Slide 10:** There have been many stories of competitors who have forgotten this and been disqualified for cheating in some way, or for very unsporting behavior, such as Angel Matos, a Cuban taekwondo athlete, who competed in the 2008 Olympics. He kicked out at a judge in the match for the bronze medal, because he was cross at a decision the judge had made. I wonder if you've ever felt like this.....and what you did about it? ....Well, it didn't work out very well for Angel Matos. He – and his trainer – were banned from ever competing anywhere again because of his actions, and how they'd gone against those Olympic ideals.
- **Slide 11:** *Listen to these words of Baron de Coubertin:*  
*"The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but taking part.  
The essential thing about life is not conquering, but fighting well."*
- When he spoke these words, Baron de Coubertin was talking not just about Olympic values, but about living life itself. He believed that winning was important, but not as important as the way in which you take part. Sometimes, in our keenness to be the best that we can, it's easy to forget that the way in which we do things says more about the sort of person we are.

### **Slide 12: Responding and words for worship**

We're going to be still with our own thoughts now.....and think about how what we've heard might help us in our school community today....

**Slide 13:** .Where you are right now, close your eyes and think....

.....how do you react when you win or are the best at something? Are you a good winner.....

....what about when someone else wins or is better than you? Are you a good loser too?.....

.....It's not easy to be good at both winning and losing!.....

....I wonder what difference these ideas might make to the way we behave today?....

...I wonder how we might show Baron de Coubertin's Olympic vales of respect, excellence or friendship in our classrooms and our homes this week?....

### **Slide 14: Opportunity for reflection / prayer**

I'm going to pray now. If this is something that you feel comfortable doing, then find a way to make the words your own. If you don't want to pray, then use the quiet to be still with your own thoughts.

**Dear God**

**Thank you for the Olympics, and all that's good about them. We pray for all who will be competing this year, that they will do all they can to uphold the Olympic ideals. As we go about our work and play today, may we do the best we can, and treat others with respect and friendship.**



**Slide 15: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 16**

**Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...**

**All: Let's go for gold\* in all that we do!**



\*Again, you might need to unpick what we mean by 'going for gold' in the context of today's words.

**To listen to / sing:**

[Golden Rules](#) / [Golden Rule \(NBD\)](#)



**Slide 17: Reflective areas**










Make three gold 'medals' for use in your reflective area. You could ask pupils to write their ideas on each medal, or attach a ribbon to each and 'award' them to children who've demonstrated these values during the day / week. Or you could pass them around during Circle Time and ask children to share their thoughts in answer to each question.



**Going for gold!**

**2. Olympic Values**


Print these out onto card for the charades game:

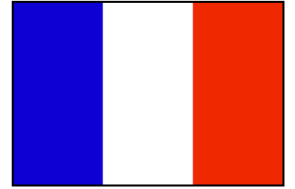
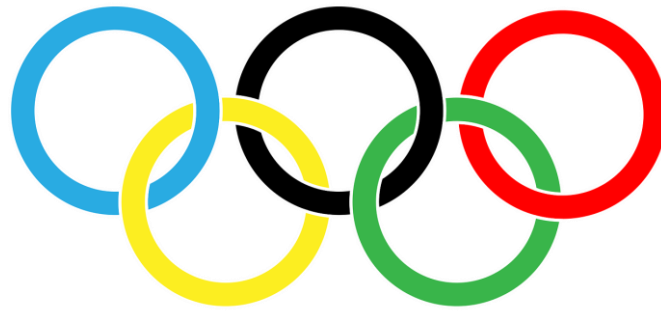
 shooting	 running	 cycling
 archery	swimming 	 tennis
 weightlifting	 fencing	 wrestling



Going for gold!

2. Olympic Values

Summer 2024 © Diocese of  
Guildford   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES



# **Respect Excellence Friendship**

**These were important values that Baron de Coubertin wanted the athletes in the first modern Olympics to show**



**What do these values mean to us in our school?**



**Talk together about how you might show these values in the classroom, in the playground and at home.**



**Write your ideas onto one of the golden medals.**



*Use the three 'medal' shapes in your reflective area this week. You could attach a ribbon to them to make them extra authentic!*

**How could you show  
Excellence this week?**

**How could you show  
Respect this week?**

**How could you show  
Friendship this week?**



**Going for gold!**

**2. Olympic Values**

**Summer 2024** © **Diocese of  
Guildford**   
TRANSFORMING CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING LIVES