

## School Leavers' Reflective Activities and Service

### Materials for summer

#### The concept

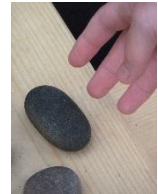
Transition from one school to another is an important milestone for children of all ages. The change from being the big fish in the small pond, to being the small fish in the big pond is both exciting and daunting.

These reflective activities give pupils the opportunity to celebrate the good things, the people, and values of the school that they are leaving. Also, to acknowledge any regrets that they may have. Then they can reflect on the excitement and anxiety of starting at a new and bigger school.

Pupils spend approximately an hour in small groups engaging with various reflective prayer activities and then join together for a short service, this could be

held in the school hall, the church or even outside. In the simple service the reflective activities are drawn together to illustrate a journey.

Schools will wish to include their own choice of music and may wish to add extra memories and prayers to personalise the service. Churches may be able to invite pupils from the church family who have finished GCSE's or A levels to contribute to the service.



#### There are six reflective activities. They can be done in any order.

**Maps** – Most schools have a set of school values. This activity gives pupils the opportunity to reflect on how their school values have helped them to live together well in their current school, and how they might help them as they start at their new school. This activity could take quite a bit of time to complete compared to some of the others. You may choose to do this in advance of your leavers service.

**Regrets** – An opportunity to reflect on things that the pupils regret about their time in primary school.

**Wow** – An opportunity to celebrate the things that the pupils have particularly enjoyed during their time at primary school.

**Thank you** – An opportunity to think about a person

or the people that have helped them during their time at primary school and to say thank you to God for them.

**Please** – An opportunity to reflect on what is worrying the pupils and to place these worries into Gods hands.

**Train Tickets** – An opportunity to look forward to the adventure of starting at their new school.

#### Optional Activity

**Candle Holders** – In the service we suggest that pupils are given a battery tealight to take with them. Some schools may wish to give the pupils the opportunity to make a holder for their tealight.

#### Organisation

- The reflective activities work best when the pupils are in small groups. With Year 2, pupil groups of 6 would be ideal; for Year 6, pupil groups of 10 would work.
- Each group will need at least one adult with them. You may decide that the adult moves with the group to different activities or that the adult stays with the activity and the children move to them.

#### Transition Activities Diocese of Guildford

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- We have known it work well with sixth form students leading some of the activities. If you have the necessary contacts, that might be a possibility for your service.
- Most of the activities take about 10 minutes to complete, however the 'Wow moments' and the maps will take longest.
- Decide how the groups will know when to move onto their next activity.
- It helps if the adults have been briefed about what each activity involves before the day.
- If you are going to make pipe cleaner people in your 'Thank you' station it is very helpful if the adults have learned how to make them.

## Set up

The reflective activities can be set up in school or in the church. You need to consider:

- Will you stay in the same place for the service, or will you move into a different room or building?
- The regret activity uses water, it may be best done outside.
- Even a gentle breeze can be a problem with activities that involve paper.
- Space the activities out so that the pupils are not distracted by what another group are doing.
- It works well to have more reflection stations prepared than you need. We recommend that you have at least one extra 'Wow Moments' and 'Values Map' station set up so that pupils can move to that when they are ready.
- Clipboards make a good alternative to tables.
- It works best to have a focal point for the reflective activities. These need to include the instructions, maybe some prompts for ideas and the equipment needed. We set them up using chairs.



## Map Activity

### Values that guide us

#### Purpose

This activity gives pupils the opportunity to think about how the values of the school that they are leaving might help them to make choices in their new school.



Many schools have 6 values, which is why we have folded the paper into 6. If the school has more, you could use both sides of the paper. If the school has less the pupils could draw several examples of that value in action.

#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Pens
- A blank A3 piece of paper folded into 6, like a map. Older pupils could do the folding themselves. You could even use a photocopy of the local area, which includes your school, with children using the back to write on.

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card. (Provided on the website)
- For younger pupils it may be helpful to have written the school values on a whiteboard for them to copy.
- It may be helpful to have a folded (local) map to show the pupils.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Our school values help us to know how to live well together they are a bit like a map showing us where to go.
- Open out your paper; you will see six rectangles made by the folds. In each of these rectangles write one of our school values.
- You could draw a symbol for that value or a picture of someone living out that value if you wish.
- Fold your values map back up and write your school's name and your name on the front.
- Maps often have a photograph of a place on the front, you could draw your school on the front of your map.

## Wow

### Celebrating special moments

#### Purpose

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to celebrate the special moments they have enjoyed in the school that they are leaving. The 'wow' moments. This year, of course, it will also include the 'wow' moments during lockdown learning, either at home or for key worker children in school.

These flags will be used in the service later.



#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Coloured pens
- An A5 piece of paper, a variety of colours would be effective.
- A paper straw

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card. (Provided on the website)
- Tape
- Scissors to cut the tape

If you prefer, you could make wow bunting to decorate your church or school. For this you will need:

- Two triangles of paper for each pupil.
- Two pegs for each pupil
- A washing line or long length of bunting tape where the pupils can safely reach it to peg on their flags to make bunting.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Think back over your time at this school. Can you think of something that you did that was a wow moment - something that you especially enjoyed or are proud of?
- Write or draw this moment on a flag then decorate the flag with bright colours.

*Now*

- Can you think of something that you did during lockdown learning either at home or at school that that you especially enjoyed or are proud of?
- Write or draw this 'wow' onto the other side of your flag.

## Regret Activity (for a group)

### Leaving behind the things we regret

#### Purpose

This activity gives pupils the opportunity to think about things that they regret about their time at the school they are leaving. These may be things that they did or said to others, falling out with friends, or opportunities that they didn't take.

Be aware that pupils are not being asked to forgive people who have abused or harmed them.

**Note** - Pupils could raise concerns that are of a safeguarding nature. If this happens the school's safeguarding procedure must be followed.

There are two options for this activity, this one done as a group sharing resources and one that can be done individually.

#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- A bucket of dirty stones
- A bucket of clean water
- A large cross (church schools) or a large dish (this may be more suitable for community schools)
- A towel for drying their hands
- The adult leading the activity will need the script. There are versions for year 2 and year 6 on the website.

#### Set Up

This activity should be led by an adult.

It works best outside.

Sit the pupils in a semi-circle on a rug or bench.

Put the bucket of stones and the bucket of water next to each other on the grass or a plastic sheet at the front.

Put the cross or dish a little way from the buckets.

Encourage any other adults present to join in with the activity, it makes it more meaningful for the pupils.



## Regret Activity (for pupils to do individually)

### Leaving behind the things we regret

#### Purpose

This activity gives pupils the opportunity to think about things that they regret about their time at the school they are leaving. These may be things that they did or said to others, falling out with friends, or opportunities that they didn't take. This year there may be things that didn't happen because of Coronavirus; this is the moment to acknowledge the sense of loss that some pupils may feel about this.



Be aware that pupils are not being asked to forgive people who have abused or harmed them.

**Note** - Pupils could raise concerns that are of a safeguarding nature. If this happens the school's safeguarding procedure must be followed.

There are two options for this activity; this one can be done individually so that pupils do not have to share resources. The other is a group activity and pupils will share resources.

#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Half a soluble vitamin tablet [www.lloydspharmacy.com/en/high-strength-effervescent-vitamin-c-1000mg-20-effervescent-tablets](http://www.lloydspharmacy.com/en/high-strength-effervescent-vitamin-c-1000mg-20-effervescent-tablets)
- A tall clear glass or jug filled with water

#### Set Up

This activity should be led by an adult. There is a script for them to use on the website.

Each pupil needs to have their container of water and vitamin tablet in front of them while the adult reads the instructions.

Encourage any other adults present to join in with the activity, it makes it more meaningful for the pupils.

You will need to wash the containers and replace the water between groups.

## Thank You (year 2 version)

### Saying thank you for people who have helped us.

#### Purpose

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to think who has helped them while they have been at this school and to say thank you for them. The decorated people will be presented as a form of thank you prayer in the service.

Pupils could then say thank you to that person later.



#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Pens
- A cut out person shape (template on the website) or available cheaply from pound shops and on-line

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card (Provided on the website)
- A big dish where everyone can safely access it.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Think of someone who has helped you while you have been at this school.
- Decorate a person shape to look like them.
- Write your name on the back so that you can take your person home with you.
- Now put your person shape into the big dish as a symbol of thanking God for them.

*Later*

- You might like to tell that person that you said thank you for them.
- You could give them your decorated person
- or
- You could take your person home and keep it to remind you of this person and how they helped you.

## Thank You (year 6 version)

### Saying thank you for people who have helped us.

#### Purpose

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to think who has helped them while they have been at this school and to say thank you for them. The decorated people will be presented as a form of thank you prayer in the service.



Pupils could then say thank you to that person later.

#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Pens
- Small square of paper
- A couple of chenille sticks / pipe cleaners per pupil

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card (Provided on the website)
- The instructions or video of how to make a pipe cleaner person.
- A big dish where everyone can safely access it.

*It is helpful if some of the adults have learned how to make these pipe cleaner people!*

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Think of someone you are thankful for who helped you while you have been at this school.
- Write their name and the reason you are saying thank you for them onto a square of paper.
- Now put your paper into the big dish as a symbol of thanking God for them.
- Finally create a pipe cleaner person to represent that person you are thankful for. Take it with you to remind you of that person.

*Later*

- You might like to tell that person that you said thank you for them.

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## Please

### Asking for God's help

#### Purpose

This activity gives pupils the opportunity to reflect on things that are worrying them. These may be about the move to a new school, their family, or global issues. Their 'please' thoughts and prayers are presented to God in the service later.



**Note** that if a pupil expresses a worry that gives cause for concern, the school's safeguarding procedure must be followed.

#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Coloured pens
- An A5 piece of paper, a variety of colours would be effective.

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card (Provided on the website)
- A decorated box to gather the please prayers or thoughts.

If you prefer you could make a hands banner to put at the front of your worship space or assembly. For this you will need:

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- A large piece of paper, big enough to take all the hands with minimum overlap.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Is there something that you are worried about; something that you want God to help you with? It may be about your new school, about your family or about the world.
- On a piece of coloured paper and draw around your hand.
- On your hand shape write or draw the thing that you want to put into God's hands.

*Either (you decide which of these options you will use)*

- Put your please hand into the special box of prayers and thoughts for us to give to God later.

*or*

- Cut out your hand shape.
- Stick your hand prayer or thought onto the big paper to make a banner of prayers.
- Tape your flag onto a straw so that you will be able to use it in the service later.

## Train Tickets Activity

### Looking forward to new adventures

#### Purpose

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to think about the things that they are looking forward to at their new school, and to have a sense of excitement and adventure about this move.



#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- Pens
- A blank train ticket (template on our website)

*Each pupil will need access to:*

- Instruction card (provided on the website)
- For younger pupils it may be helpful to have written the names of your school and the schools that they will be moving to on a whiteboard for them to copy.
- Pupils could draw a picture of the school, or the school logo if they find writing challenging.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- Next to the word **From** write the name of the school you are leaving.
- Next to the word **To** write the name of your new school.
- On the back write or draw one thing you are looking forward to when you arrive at your new school.
- You will need this ticket in the service.

## Candles

### Lighting our way

#### Purpose

As part of the service, it would be good to give each pupil a battery tealight to take home.

Some schools traditionally give their year 6 leavers a real candle with the school's badge on it.

It would make the tea light more special if the pupils are able to make or decorate a candle holder.



#### Equipment

*Each pupil will need:*

- A battery tea light
- Your choice of craft materials for creating a candle holder.
- You can buy blanks to decorate from places such as Hobbycraft or Baker Ross, or make them from clay, salt dough, old CDs and even paper. There are lots of ideas online.

#### Instructions for the pupils

- The instructions will vary depending on the style of tealight holder you choose to make.