



Ethos

Guiding Principles

Evolving out of conversations with children, the Church Schools of Cambridge and Education at Great St Mary's are developing a series of resources that promote a different approach to Religious Education and Collective Worship. Using stories, reflections and activities based on Bible passages and Christian festivals, the resources aim to give children of all faiths and none the space and time to consider their own understanding of their place and beliefs.

How to implement this in the classroom:

Approach

- Speak quietly and slowly, the children will quieten down to listen.
- Move slowly and deliberately explaining your actions providing a focus for the children.

Preparation

- Make the children comfortable by clearly indicating starting and finishing points.
- Provide a focal point of interesting objects with a coloured cloth to mark the church season.
- Use resources that engage all five senses.
- Give yourself permission to enjoy the experience with the children.

Responses

- Allow children the time and the space to respond in their own way.
- Ask open questions with no expectation of a particular (or even seemingly relevant) response.
- Avoid imposing your own understanding of a story or activity.
- Allow children to explore topics which may stir your own emotions and questions, do not feel you have to be able to provide the answers.
- Set aside extra time for children to finish responses (perhaps at a break time).
- Do not expect responses to be 'display worthy' and avoid making work produced from a spiritual perspective for something else (e.g. spelling).