



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAJORITY OF RESOURCES AND WEBSITES LISTED THROUGHOUT THIS RESOURCE ARE NOT PROVIDED OR MAINTAINED BY THE DIOCESE OF DERBY. YOU ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO CHECK SITES AND RESOURCES CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THEM WITH SCHOOLS OR CHURCHES

C) CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS: INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SCHOOLS

C) 1. INVOLVEMENT IN ASSEMBLY, COLLECTIVE WORSHIP, RE AND PSHE

The most recent Government legislation in this area can be read [here](#). Please note that this guidance is from 1994. There have been numerous calls for legislation to be updated.

“The requirements are enshrined in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which builds on similar requirements in the Education Act 1996, Education Reform Act 1988, and the 1944 Education Act.

Firstly, the Law states that:

“In England, Wales and Northern Ireland all state-funded schools (includes secondary) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to hold daily acts of ‘Collective Worship’. In England and Wales in schools with no formal religious character this worship must be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. In Northern Ireland the requirement is for ‘undenominational’ collective worship.”

Not everyone agrees with this law. Humanists UK [has a guide for parents on the law](#)

In the case of non-religious secondary schools, the logistical difficulties of gathering large numbers of students together every day have led to a situation where this law is rarely adhered to and seldom challenged by Ofsted.

In a Church of England school, the situation is different and there have been excellent developments in the way that Collective Worship is planned and run. If you are invited to take part or lead collective worship in a Church of England school, you are strongly advised to access training (contact the [Diocese of Derby Board of Education](#) for details) to ensure that you are aware of how different today’s Collective Worship is to the Assemblies we might remember from our own school days!





SIAMS

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

See page 15 to read about the Collective Worship strand.

Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/teaching-learning-and-school-governance/curriculum-and-assessment/derbyshire-and-derby-city-agreed-syllabus-2020-2025.pdf>

AND FINALLY – other religions and the Secular Society and Humanist Society have input to schools too.

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/news/derbyshire-agreed-syllabus-for-religious-education-re-humanist-supplement.aspx>

Open the Book - <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/> Now overseen by the Bible Society, the resources have been updated. Teams must have completed recent training to continue to use the Open the book name and resources.



Below are listed some available Collective Worship Resources. Please assess for yourself how appropriate they might be for your setting.

- Roots and Fruits: <https://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/> Creative Collective Worship for Primary Schools on Christian Values Themes (Imaginer)
- [Canterbury Diocese online collective worship](#) provides all year round collective worship stimuli and videos
- [Archbishop of York Youth Trust](#) this organisation often provides whole units of planned collective worship on a theme eg: Advent and are of a very high quality
- [TenTen Resources](#) Catholic worship resources.
- [Barnabas in Schools](#) inspiring and engaging planned collective worship on wide range of themes which can be downloaded for free

ALSO, [Raise up Faith](#) is a new and vast web resource. There is a fee depending on the size of your group, but some parts of the site are free. Whilst it is aimed at church groups, there is plenty too which would be excellent for collective worship times.

C) 2. INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SCHOOLS: FESTIVALS

The Jumping Fish Publications from Gloucester have Experience Events and Journeys Packs to inspire work with Primary schools around festivals. There are new packs for Advent and Lent.

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/schools/jumping-fish-publications/> See Experience Journeys. The Diocese has packs of all the resources for Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest.



Training for your team can be organised. Please ask about the other Festivals, we are building our resources.

How do I borrow the resources?

- Book early – check dates with school(s) and Sarah
- Book a day in advance and a day after to avoid too much stress!
- Be prepared to help with deliveries!

- Find:
 - Some strong people to do the carrying.
 - Some artistic people to arrange the displays
 - Some people who can explain one of the scenes to the children (everything is written down and you should stick to the script)
 - Some hospitable people who could organise some simple refreshments
 - Some praying people who will pray for the children and their school before, during and after the event.

C) 3. INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SCHOOLS: PRAYER

PRAYER SPACES IN SCHOOLS is an inspiring resource for any school. It is aimed clearly at children of all faiths and none, and enables young people to pause, reflect and consider issues around their own lives and that of the world.



You are recommended to attend a training day before planning to use Prayer Spaces. If you are considering attending one, please contact [Sarah](#)

Prayer Spaces in Schools <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/> Plans to set up a training day for Derby Diocese when safe and practical

PRAYER CORNERS/REFLECTIVE SPACES Ideas [here](#) from Ely Diocese

A space in the school to stop, think, wonder and perhaps pray is a valuable resource that churches might be able to contribute to. Displays should be in a place where children regularly pass, should be attractive and changed regularly.

C) 4. INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SCHOOLS: RE AND OTHER LESSONS

There is no National Curriculum for RE in schools. Instead, a local group prepares an Agreed Syllabus for RE which is designed to reflect the profile of the area that the school is in.

The Derby City and Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus can be found [here](#). Before offering to help with RE, you will need to familiarise yourself with this document. It is possible that the school will ask



for support in particular areas, such as Baptism or a wedding. Again, you should be certain to read /explore what is said in the Agreed Syllabus about these areas.

Secondary schools might be looking for deeper input to their lessons such as PSICHE or Citizenship. Students will often appreciate an invitation to ask searching questions!

These two organisations are other excellent resources for schools work.

School Pastors <https://www.streetpastors.org/about-us/school-and-college-pastors/>

School Chaplains <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/school-chaplaincy> <https://centreforchaplaincyineducation.co.uk/>