

Appendix 3: Collective Worship Themes

When planning school worship headteachers should consider developing a planned programme focussing on different themes. This gives opportunities for teachers to plan well ahead and provides a coherent framework for the year. By setting themes in advance genuine links can be made with religious festivals, school events, national and international occasions, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development and the whole curriculum. Knowing themes in advance gives staff and pupils alike the opportunity to participate more fully in both planning and presentation.

The following list, originally published in 'School Worship Perspectives, Principles and Practice' by Bill Gent, can be used when undertaking planning over a year or a term.

Achievement and talent	Good and Evil
Age	Guilt and Suffering
Aggression and Hate	
The Arts	Harvest and Thankfulness
Autumn and Harvest	Health
	Heroes and Heroines
Barriers	Humour
Beginnings	
Blindness and Sight	I believe...
Bridges	In the news
Care and caring	Jesus
A celebration of talent	Journeys
Change and decay	Joy and sorrow
Choice and Decision	
Christmas stories	Key People
Courage	
	Leaders and Leadership
Day and Night	Lenten thoughts
Desert Island Disc	Life and Death
Discovery	Light and darkness
Dreams	Love and Hate
The Easter Experience	The Message
Education and learning	Mysteries and Puzzles
Exploring the Future	
Exploring the Past	The Natural World
	A New School Year
Fashion and Trends	New Year's Resolutions
Finding Your Way	
Food for Thought	One World
Forgiveness	Old and New
Freedom and Responsibility	Opportunities
The Global Village	Parents and Children
God and Gods	Prayer and Meditation

Proverbs and Sayings
Peace and tranquillity
A Person who has influenced me
Pride and Prejudice

Rebirth
Red Letter Days
Rewards and Punishments
Risk
Roots

School and Community
School and Tradition
School Life
The Sciences
Seeing the Light
Special Books
Stepping Stones and Stumbling Blocks
Strengths and Weaknesses
Success and Failure
Summing Up

Taking Risks
Time and Tide
Turning Points
The Unexpected

Us and Them
Victory and defeat
Voices
Voices from the past

War and peace
Ways of Seeing
Wealth and Riches
What's it worth?
Why are we here?
Wonder and Awe
The Word
Winter and Spring
Work and Play
The World About Us
The Writing on the Wall

Youth and Old Age

Examples of Themes for a School Year (Secondary)

Autumn Term

Start as you mean to go on
Succeeding against the Odds
Seize the Day
Grandparents' Day
Heroes
Being Organised
World Food Day
Diwali
Sharing
Remembrance
Positive Thinking
Eid Ul Fitr
World Aids Day
Human Rights
Christmas

Spring Term

New Year's Resolutions
Don't judge by appearances
Martin Luther King Day
Holocaust Memorial Day
Being Nervous
Friendship and Love
Ambition
Making Mistakes
International Women's Day
St Patrick's Day
Fighting Racism
Easter

Summer Term

The Importance of Community
Communication
Living in a Democracy
Caring for Others
Keeping Focused

World Environment Day

Teamwork
Money
Independence
Dreams, Visions and Premonitions
Achievement

Useful websites for collective worship

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk> - a great source of ideas for themes and activities for primary and secondary assemblies.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20070108153428/teacher.net.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/assemblies/>

- you can search for assemblies by theme, school type or year group.

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk> - themed assemblies with Christian content.

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/more/assemblies/contents.htm> - suggestions from teachers on how to deliver creative and imaginative assemblies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/collectiveworship> - homepage of the collective worship resources from BBC radio.

