

Governors Report - Christian Distinctiveness/SIAMS- Worship Council
Governor: Rev'd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson
22nd July 2022

One of our SIAMS objectives following our last inspection was to have pupils engaged in devising, organising and leading worship.

This has been set in train with the forming of a Worship Council in Easter Term 2022, comprising 7 volunteer council-members from Years 4 and 5. The Worship Council met on Fridays throughout the term, facilitated by myself, Mrs Addison, and Jane Fletcher as our Bishop's Visitor.

We were wowed by the pupils' commitment and enthusiasm. I loosely based our sessions on the Diocese of Canterbury material for preparing a Worship Council. We began each session as we begin worship itself: with a lit candle, the sign of the cross, a liturgical greeting (the Lord be with you/and also with you). Different pupils gradually took on these elements. We also modelled different ways of engaging with Bible passages—for example responding reflectively with play-doh, using Lectio Divina (praying with scripture) for a short verse, reading out loud and engaging with an artist's response to a psalm—which meant that each hour was shaped to be like an act of worship itself. The Worship Council are all sensitive, reflective individuals who had some truly amazing things to say in response to God's word and how we might share it with others. We also explored how different kinds of engagement and worship might suit different ages and individuals. We had a lot of fun! And always closed with the school prayer.

Very quickly, the pupils took the lead—writing their own Worship Council prayer, assigning each of themselves a school value and a colour of the rainbow, writing prayers based on their values and putting together slides and materials for worship. It was amazing to see them fly!

Jane Fletcher came in to assist us with devising and designing a cloth to cover the Prayer Table which will be the focal point for Collective Worship in the new school year. The Worship Councillors prepared sketches and were able to decide together on a rainbow, dove, the school emblem and some symbols to reflect their values. We helped Jane to cut out felt squares to form an impressionistic rainbow which will come together over the summer holidays.

In the last week of term, the Worship Council took a Collective Worship themselves. I opened worship, but they prepared the space, lit the candle, did and managed the slides, introduced themselves, read the reading from John 20, and led the question and answer exploration of the theme of Peace. They were wonderful!!

In Autumn 2022 Jane Fletcher and Mrs Addison will continue to facilitate the Worship Council to meet regularly to plan, prepare and lead worship.