



Exploring Christian Distinctiveness: Pupil Voice

Introduction

Self-evaluation of a church school's distinctiveness remains as important as ever and schools are encouraged to be creative as they seek to demonstrate the impact of their Christian character on the daily life of the school. The main focus of a successful evaluation should always be on the impact. Whilst schools are rightly proud of the things they have provided for their children it is the difference which is made by this provision which really matters. Church school inspectors gather a range of on-site self-evaluation evidence and this will include talking to groups of pupils.

This booklet provides some questions that you can use to help you plan and conduct pupil voice to gather evidence of the effectiveness and distinctiveness of your school as a church school.

Before you undertake pupil voice you might want to consider the following questions.

Who will participate and why?

How will you decide the focus for the pupil voice? (You won't be able to cover everything from this booklet in one go) What is the role of governors, and how can they effectively be involved?

How and when will you feedback the evidence collected to staff?

How will next steps be identified?

Who is responsible for planning the next pupil voice in response to the identified next steps?

How will you celebrate achievement?

How will your school provide an overview of the next steps, including a description of learning opportunities for staff?

Paying attention to these questions as part of the planning of pupil voice will help the activity to be a successful and useful learning experience for all those involved.

Vision and Provision

STRAND 1: Vision and Leadership

- Do you know that this is a church school?
- Do you think that it makes any difference that you come to a church school?
- What do you think is good about coming to a church school?

What is in school that would tell visitors that you are a church school? Where would they look?

- Can you tell me about your school logo? What do the different parts of it refer to?
- Can you tell me about your school's vision and what does it mean?
- Which are the Christian values that link to your school's vision?
- Can you think of a Bible Story /teaching that illustrate this / these? What did you learn from this story?
- How did your school decide which Christian values should become the school's core values?

STRAND 2: Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

- Can you give an example of how one of your school values was important in something you learnt about in class?
- Has anything you have learnt about your Christian vision and values helped you or your class make an important decision?
- How do you know if you have done something well?
- What sort of things are celebrated in your classrooms? In your learning?
- What do you do when you find something difficult?
- What do you do when somebody in your class finds something difficult?
- What opportunities are you given to talk about your own feelings?



- What opportunities are you given to share your thoughts and views?
 - What opportunities are you given to reflect and think?

STRAND 3: Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

- How do you think learning about the vision and values helps you and your school community to live and work well?
- How do you decide which charities you are going to raise money for? Why is this important to you and your school? How does this link to your school vision and values?
- What do you do in this school to help others who are not as well off as you are? What do you do in your community? The wider world?
- Do you have the opportunity to discuss and challenge injustice? And what do you do if something is unjust?
 - Do you have opportunities in school to discuss 'big questions' about life and the world?

STRAND 4: Community and Living Well Together

STRAND 5: Dignity and Respect

- How do the teachers help you to think/care about yourself and to think/care about other people?
- When there is a bad argument in the playground, who do you go to, to help get it sorted out? How does this happen?
- How does the school's vision and values help you and your friends?
- What do you do if something goes wrong? How do you put it right again?
- What do you do if you have been treated unfairly? What do you do if your friend has been treated unfairly?
- How do the teachers help you to think/care about yourself and to think/care about other people?



- Do you know anyone in school who is different from you?
- How do you treat children who are different from you?
- What have you learnt about Christianity around the world? How has this helped you understand difference?
- Do you think there are lonely people in your school, why do you think this is? If people are lonely, what help is there for them?
- Do you think that the staff in this school are good at listening to what you have to say?
- Are there times and places where you sit quietly during the school day?



Collective Worship

- Tell us what happens in your worship time.
- Do you think worship is important in your school?
- When you are told it is time for worship what do you think that worship is?
- What do we do when we are worshipping?
- What's it that makes it worship and not just, for example, singing?
- What do you like most about worship?
- Can you finish this sentence
Collective Worship is a time for.....
Collective Worship could/should include.....
- Think about times when you have thought at the end of Collective Worship that was really great, I am glad I was in the hall today! What made it so good?
- What is your favourite type of worship *e.g. whole school; smaller groupings; class worship; in church; children taking part in worship; the vicar leading worship; visiting speakers; visiting groups; Communion or Eucharist?*
- What do you like about it / them?
- Do you have anything special to look at during worship? Why do you?
- How do you feel about collective worship? How does it help you? Does it encourage you in any way?
- Who leads these worship times?
- Do you have opportunities to create and lead collective worship?
- Do you have any chance to make comments about collective worship?
- Do you learn anything in collective worship or RE that helps you to know about what happens in church?



- Do you learn about church seasons and festivals?
- How and when do you say prayers in school (start of day, lunchtime, race, end of day, collective worship, etc)?
- Do you know any special prayers or hymns/songs?
- Do you ever say prayers for special reasons?
- Do you ever say prayers yourself?
- In what ways does worship time in your school help you to understand more about Christian values?
- What would the whole school miss if there was no Collective Worship? What would you miss?
- What sort of ideas are you able to explore in Collective Worship? Is there any other time in school that you can explore these ideas?



Religious Education

- How well are you doing in RE?
- Are there any things which make learning difficult in RE?
- What things help your learning in RE?
- Do you feel that your ideas and views are listened to by your teacher? Can you give an example?
- What can you tell me about your recent work?
- Have you been surprised by anything you learnt?
- How is this [building / artefact / etc] used by believers?
- What questions do you discuss / talk about in RE?
- Do you think these questions are interesting / important?
- Do you think that work in RE is more or less challenging than work you do in other subjects?
- What is your own view about...?
- What would Hindus / Jews / Christians say? Do they all agree? What are the differences?
- Do you get the chance to reflect on life's big questions in RE?
- Do you have opportunities to meet people from different religions or cultures in RE?
- Have any pupils in your class contributed to RE lessons from their own faith perspectives?
- Are there opportunities in RE for you to make a positive contribution to the community, eg in considering the best ways of helping people in need?
- Do you think you are learning useful skills for life in RE?



- How do you know how well you are doing in RE?
- Can you give some examples of work you have done on your own and some you have done with others?
- Do you know what your teacher's marking grades or comments mean?
- Do you get homework in RE? How much?
- Do you have any choices in what you do in RE or does everyone do the same?
- How much RE do you get in an average week?
- Does RE help much with speaking, listening, reading and writing?
- Have you ever made any visits in RE or had any visitors? What can you tell me about them? In what ways are they similar to other visits / visitors?
- How do your teachers help you to do well in RE?
- What happens if you don't understand something?
- Have you ever had any of your RE work displayed or put on the school website?
- Which bits of RE have been the best? Why?
- What didn't you enjoy/find interesting? Was it still worthwhile?
- Do you think RE has got more or less interesting during your time in the school?
- Do you learn anything in RE that helps you to know about what happens in church? Do you learn about church seasons and festivals?
- What do you think about RE? Do you find that it helps you to understand about other people?
- Do you think of RE as a really important area of learning or is it 'just another subject you have to study'?

