

Transforming Lives; Transforming Communities

Year of the Child 2009

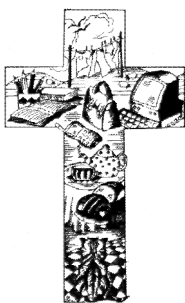
Celebrate

Review

Challenge



What you said about
School Life



Children on School Life

☺ We had a big response on the topic of school life!

"The best bit of school is home time"

"The most important thing is lessons to learn how to do stuff"

"SATS show what I know"

"The best bit about school is seeing mates"

"The most important bit about school is learning and taking part in things"

☺ Do you have Collective Worship (Assembly)

"Yes"

"Yes, unfortunately"

"It helps you to know how to live your life"

"Visiting leaders can sometimes treat us like babies"

"Would be better to have no singing, no, just good songs"

"Make it more exciting"

"Some people are rude and talk while we are singing"

"Would be better if children could organise the assemblies"

"Would be better if we had them in the afternoon"

"It's boring (understatement of the century) but it shortens maths"

☺ And about Religious Education

"It makes you not racist"

"Teaches me about religion all over the world"

"Makes us understand other faiths"

"Makes me learn about God"

☺ What does your school do for your community?

"Raises money for charity"

"Christmas Plays"

"Helps people all over the world"

"Teaches its children"

"Open sports facilities"

Reviewing School Life

- ☺ We expected at least one reply that “Home Time” was the best bit of school. But overwhelmingly the responses and discussions in groups suggested that the children enjoyed their school life.
- ☺ All the children were aware that they attended Collective Worship in their schools, some recognised it as a time of worship. Most knew it as assembly and did not recognise the term collective worship, and some did not have an act of collective worship on every school day.
- ☺ Some collective worship is a time to showcase talents, few saw it as a time that made any impact on school life. For many it was boring and uninspiring, though some leaders were praised for their collective worship times. Children expressed a desire for more variety of leaders, for more opportunity to lead collective worship themselves, for more prayers, more (and better) songs. Occasionally it was stated that Collective Worship takes up time that could be spent teaching.
- ☺ Religious Education is seen by many of the children as an important place for learning and “understanding” the beliefs and lives of others.
- ☺ School and Community are clearly linked in the minds of the children. The school is a community in itself, it is a place where children interact with their friends, a place where they make new friends. It is a community which makes an impact to those outside it, to its neighbourhood, and even to the world.

Challenging the Church

What does the Church do in you School?

"The vicar visits"
"Comes to some lessons and worship"
"One or two visits per year by the vicar"
"Nothing, but we did get a Gideon Bible"
"We have a visit to church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest"
"Priest comes for mass unfortunately"
"Talks about the way of understanding each other"
"Talk about God or Jesus"

What difference could the Church make in your school?

"Teach you how to do church services"
"Clergy should be more reverendish"
"Influence us more to live a good life"
"Give more information about church"
"Help people learn in general and about church"
"Make it more joyful"
"To help people understand each other and be kind to each other"

Is there anything else you want to say?

"Yes, thank you for schools"