

A Collective Worship in remembrance of HRH Queen Elizabeth

Many schools will choose to mark the passing of Queen within their Collective Worship. These resources are aimed at supporting this. They are not meant to be prescriptive. Schools are encouraged to adapt them to fit within their school liturgy or to adapt the words to best fit the needs of their community.

The Collective Worship

If you have a group of children experienced in leading collective worship, you might want them to lead all or part of this worship. Because of the sensitive nature of the theme, however, pupils will need adult support in preparing for this worship.

Start the Collective Worship in your usual way, following your school liturgy or manner.

Tell the children that this is a very sad time, as our Queen, Elizabeth, has died *[As you do this, be aware that you may have children or adults present who have suffered loss, for whom this will bring to made painful feelings. Based on your knowledge of your school community, choose your words with sensitivity and compassion].*

Explain that she had lived a long life, serving our country and that you are going to celebrate this together. Explain that you are now going to look at presentation to learn more about her life.

Using the PowerPoint presentation, go through each slide so that the children will learn more about Queen Elizabeth's life.

Following the presentation, ask some questions to the children to draw out one or more of the themes of her life. Key elements of this could be:

- A life of service – The Queen dedicated her whole life to serving her people. In 2018, despite being over 90 years old and more 25 years past the normal age when people retire, she completed 293 royal engagements.
- A life of faith – The Queen was open about her strong personal Christian faith, for example speaking about it in her Christmas addresses to the nation. Her faith played an important part in the way she lived and was a strength to her during challenging times, both for herself and for the nation.

Explain to the children that you are going to have a short silence to remember the life of Queen Elizabeth. You might also want to encourage them to think of their own response to the examples her life has set for us, as brought out in the points you have made above.

This time of quiet does not have to be long, but you may want to have a focal point during it, such as a candle burning or music playing.

Following the time of reflection, invite the children to join with you in praying. An example prayer is below, or you may want to write your own, or to have had some children prepare one.

A Prayer

“Father God, we thank you for the life of your servant, our late Queen, Elizabeth. Thank you for the example of dedication, faith and service that she set throughout her life, both as our monarch and as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

We pray particularly for all her family at this sad time. Comfort them in their loss, strengthen them in their time of need and fill them with joyful memories of times past.

We pray particularly for Charles as he takes on the role of King. Give him wisdom and humility and help him serve our country as his mother did.

Comfort us also as a grateful nation. Help us to serve others dutifully, following Queen Elizabeth’s example, so that we might learn to live together in love and respect.

We ask this in Jesus’ name,
Amen.”

Following the prayer, you can conclude the collective worship according to your usual school liturgy or manner.