

Pupil Conferencing Summer 2017

Pupils from across the school were interviewed by Mrs Tailyour and encouraged to give feedback about our collective acts of worship and our RE and multi-faith lessons, as well as our Christian values. Here is a summary of their responses:

1. What is special about our collective acts of worship? How do collective acts of worship help you in your life?

All pupils agreed that they enjoyed our collective acts of worship and that it was a special time when all the school is together. Pupils in Year 2 said it "made [them] feel light in the mornings" and pupils in year 5 said that "everyone feels welcome". They could talk in detail about different assembly stories covered recently, including Felix's garden and especially loved the real-life stories, which inspired them. Pupils said there was a good variety of types of assemblies and liked the inclusion of stories, dramas and challenges. Many pupils remarked on how much they enjoy Mr Cotter's assemblies on Wednesday mornings.

2. Why do we have collective acts of worship?

Children agreed that our collective acts of worship help us to learn about God, Jesus and Christianity, as well as our Christian values in particular. It was considered to be an important time to pray as it can be hard to fit in at other times in the day. Year 6 children felt that it didn't matter if you were Christian or not, because the Christian values help us to learn "good lessons in life"

3. Our school Christian values: how has learning about these impacted your life? Why do we talk about these values?

Children could readily talk about our school's Christian values and all agreed that they were incredibly important for life. Pupils in Year 3 asserted that the values "help [them] to be better people" and one pupil remarked that "they have changed me", whilst Year 2 pupils said we must learn about them because otherwise "we wouldn't know how to be a good friend". Children linked the values to their own lives, and could give examples of times that they needed perseverance or self-control.

4. Is prayer helpful in this school? Is prayer helpful to you?

All pupils had strong beliefs that prayer is very important. Year 6 pupils could explain that prayer "provides a connection with God". Many pupils talked about how prayer helps them to focus, calm down and prevent stress, as well as comforting them and one remarked that "prayer helps me to keep going". It was also discussed that it is important to pray for others, linking to national, global or school events.

5. On a scale of 1-10, where 10 is best, what score would you give your RE lessons? Tell me about a time when you had to think hard in RE.

All pupils gave their RE lessons a minimum score of 8 and described engaging, fun and exciting lessons, especially liking time to discuss and talk in groups and as a class. Lots of classes talked about debates, where they had had to think hard, and Year 4 and Year 6 talked about how they enjoyed "silent debates" as everyone could participate.

6. What have you learnt about other faiths?

Children were eager to talk about their multi-faith learning, and Year 5 and Year 1 especially loved celebrating Diwali together as part of their study of Hinduism. All agreed that learning about other religions is very important, with Year 6s stating that "out of respect for other people, we ought to learn about them more". Other pupils remarked about how important it is to learn the "truth" about other religions, so we can understand other people, and also "what is happening in the world".