

SEAL for Collective Worship

SEAL (Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning) is a resource used in many primary schools (and now in secondary schools too) that can help teachers deliver PSHE. It is split into six themes; New Beginnings, Getting on and Falling out, Going for Goals, Good to be me, Relationships and Changes, and provides a short unit called 'Say no to Bullying'. Schools should have a 'folder' somewhere, which is well worth digging out! Resources are also downloadable from <http://www.bandapilot.org.uk/> and include lots of photos, ideas for small group work, staff activities, family activities and assemblies too!

For class teachers from reception to year 6, there are booklets for each theme containing resources and learning opportunities that cover most PSHE objectives. These can be closely followed for regular PSHE lessons or used solely for ideas. At the back of each booklet there are suggestions of how SEAL can be linked to other curriculum areas, including RE. The website also provides whole school assemblies to start and end each theme. They are easy to follow and offer suggestions for pre and post assembly activities. They come illustrated so could even be played on interactive whiteboards. (These assemblies may be seen as being too long for KS1, but can always be adapted.)

Although the SEAL assemblies are not specifically 'broadly Christian', there are independently published sets that follow the SEAL themes. To ensure our collective worship is fun, engaging and linked with SEAL we, and many Somerset school, use a range of resources from Twelve Baskets (www.twelvebaskets.co.uk). They have 3 cycles (A, B, C) linked specifically to SEAL. There are three booklets, per year aligned with the SEAL theme, including 12 collective worships. Each collective worship is in an easy to follow format including a general introduction with a link to SEAL, a religious story, reflection and prayer. Most photocopiable resources are included and little preparation is required. Using these booklets enhances the whole school use of SEAL, really giving the children an understanding and purpose to an act of Collective Worship.

For a non RE specialist and busy head, these booklets have proved invaluable to us! (£15 plus postage each). Of course there are other resources, books and professional judgements that will suit other schools better. We feel that by starting the week with a SEAL themed act of collective worship, the rest of the week can have a very definite objective. This objective can be followed up and rewarded at the end of the week in a celebration collective worship.

Singing based collective worships can also link to SEAL by careful choice of songs. We use a range of music including a CD from Twelve baskets (£9.99). Using any songs, linked to the weekly theme, gives collective worship a real cohesion.

It can be hard to find the perfect religious story for collective worship and to then tailor it to, perhaps the whole, school. We feel that twelve baskets have done lots of the thinking for us, which suits us perfectly!

SEAL can be used to successfully to assist delivering PSHE across the school, and help structure collective worship. Delivering collective worship in a structured, religious, interactive and purposeful way in an easy to follow format has to be good for children and staff alike!

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