

The Good Shepherd Project



Aim of the project:

To support schools to recognise and celebrate that they are part of the Diocese of Gloucester family

Intended outcomes:

- Create a greater sense of community and belonging between our schools
- Inspire engaging Collective Worship through the use of the sheep
- Create a sense of fun and shared interest across the Diocese of Gloucester
- Inspire creativity in our schools and pupils, linked to the Diocese's LIFE Vision
- Reach out to the wider community

General overview:

Your sheep is one of 9 which are travelling around the Diocese of Gloucester at this moment! Each sheep is travelling around a separate deanery within the Diocese.

Each sheep will visit approximately 14 schools in its deanery. The sheep will spend approximately 6-10 days in most schools, dependent on size. [Please see the attached schedule and be careful to follow it.](#) This is intended to create and celebrate a shared sense of community, creativity and belonging within our 118 schools.

Reason for the sheep:

Sheep are often referenced in the Bible, more than 500 times, and more than any other animal. They often are used to refer to God's people and God is often described as a shepherd, best known is Psalm 23. Jesus referred to himself as the Good Shepherd (hence the name of this project) in John 10. Because of this, we chose the sheep as the animals to use in this project – we hope that they remind all of our schools that they are part of our family as we are all part of God's wider family.

Travel arrangements:

Please can you take the sheep, once it has spent its time in your school, onto the next school on the schedule. It does comfortably fit inside a VW Polo and is transportable. It would be lovely if you brought a few pupils with you from your school to hand over to the next school to build the sense of community and belonging more.

What to do with you sheep:

Please be creative and take ownership of the project. That way it will work best. We would like each school to:

- **Decorate** the sheep with something that represents your school, or your school vision or school community. You could choose your logo, your vision statement, or a piece of artwork inspired by the above. Please leave space for the other schools (approximately 8-16 others, dependent on deanery).
- Put into the **sheep's diary** pictures of how you have used your sheep, as well as an explanation of what the sheep has been up to and any pieces of work or art that have been inspired by the sheep.
- Use the sheep in your **Collective Worship**s. Try to invite your local clergy or church representatives into your school to help with this so that the pupils see it is a church-school project. There are Collective Worship resources included.

If you have other ideas of how to use your sheep while you have it, please do not hesitate to be creative. You can always contact William Bruce, *Strategic Lead for Christian Character* at the Education Department for the Diocese of Gloucester if you have any questions.

Collective Worship

For your Collective Worship we have provided:

- A **video** to show your pupils and staff to explain the project. Please show this to them when you introduce the sheep to them
- A set of **four separate Collective Worship**s for you to choose between if you would like some guidance about how to use the sheep creatively and in a distinctively Christian fashion
- A set of four posters for you to display in your school, highlighting the project for your pupils and staff
- A set of recommended songs to sing linked to the project
- A PowerPoint and a PDF for use in the Collective Worship

All of these resources, plus all the information in e-copies, can be found on the provided USB.

If for any reason the USB stick goes missing during the project, please contact William Bruce so that receiving schools can be provided with the correct information and resources. Thank you.