

Following reports of a judicial review granted by the High Court, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders writes: "We live at a time when children feel besieged by social media, weighed down by pressure and report poor mental health. Collective worship offers ten minutes in a day for children to pause and explore the big existential questions such as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' and 'How then should I live?'"

"Offering this in the context of authentic Christian worship is not 'religious indoctrination' but a simple chance for children of all faiths and none to develop spiritually and gain perspective in an otherwise crowded day.

"There is much evidence of the value of collective worship to children and young people which is why thousands of community schools also have strong partnerships with local churches and faith groups. What happens in schools must be evidence-based and should not be in response to secular pressure group campaigns."

(From a letter to *The Times*, 30/7/19)

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