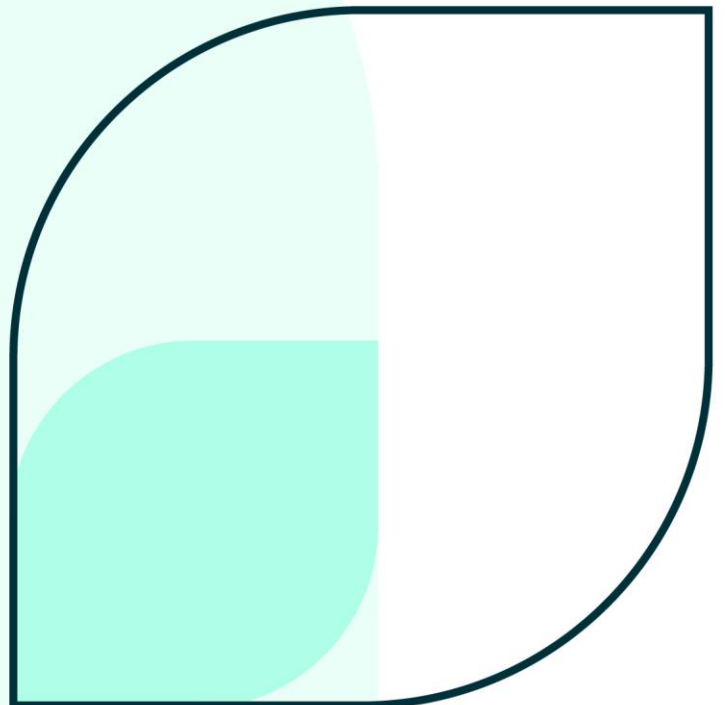


# Growing Faith Question of the Half Term

***Does God Have a  
Place in School?***

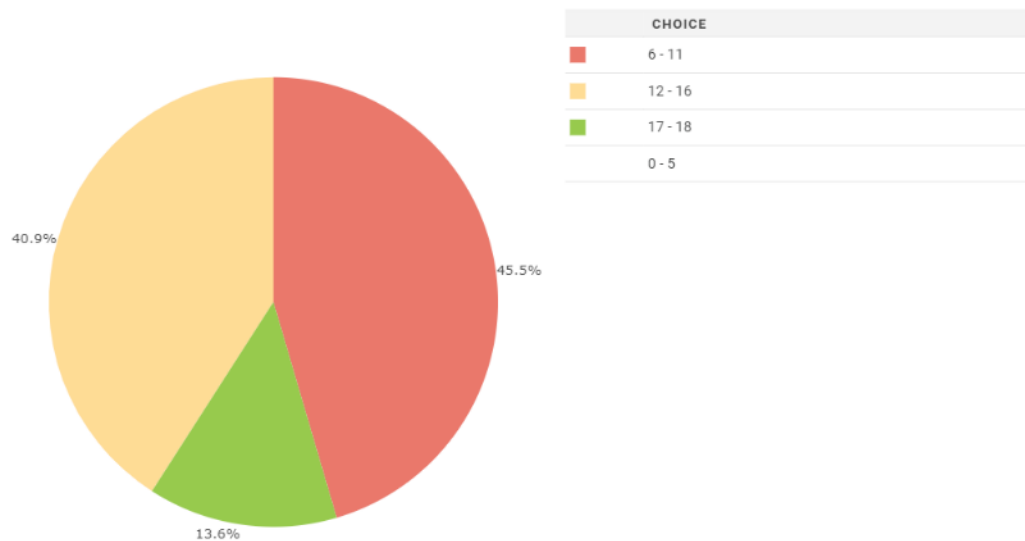




## "CAN HE STILL HEAR US?"

As part of our work to capture the voices of children and young people, we've started piloting a "Question of the Half Term." The aim is to quickly gather opinions from as many children and young people as we can from across the country. For our very first question ***"Does God have a place in school?"***, we partnered with Cesca Priestley from the Diocese of Bath and Wells. We were amazed to receive responses from 44 young people! A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts.

Which age group are you in?



The responses came from a good mix of primary and secondary students, though we saw less responses from 17–18-year-olds. We'll be looking at ways to engage this group more in future.

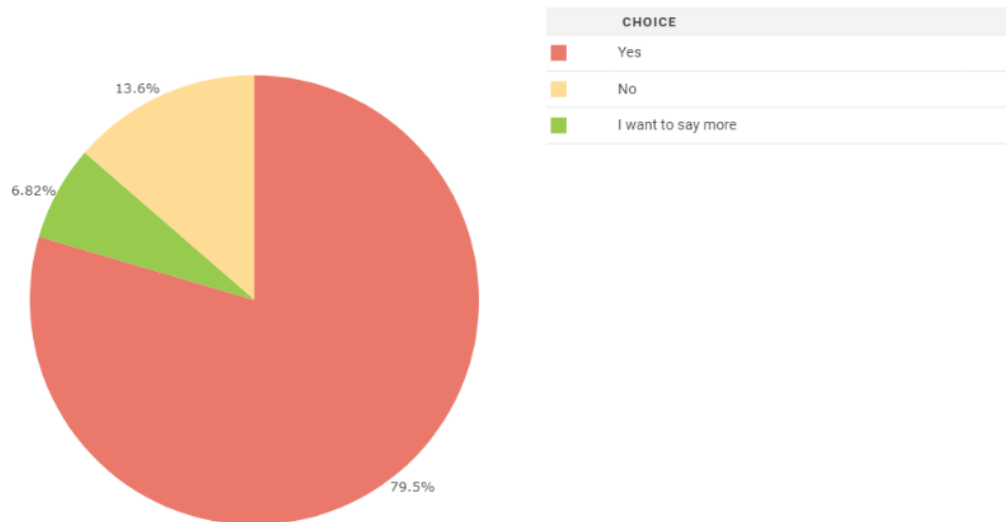
***"YEA CAUSE IF YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY IN SCHOOL OR IF YOU HAVE A TEST OR EXAM YOU CAN ASK GOD TO HELP YOU."***

I was so encouraged by the fact that nearly 80% said "yes" to the question. It's wonderful to see such openness to the idea of God having a place in school. One young person aged 17–18 wrote: *"I believe God has a place in all aspects of life. School makes up such a huge part of*



*young people's lives that it is especially important to recognise God's place in it".* Another response, from a primary school student, really stopped me in my tracks: ***"God has a place in school. Sometimes it gets really noisy and it's hard for us to hear him. Can he still hear us?"***. What a beautiful and honest question. It's such a reminder of how naturally curious and thoughtful children can be when it comes to faith. Responses like these make me so excited about the opportunities we have to explore faith with young people and help them connect with God.

Does God have a place in school?



### ***"GOD HAS A PLACE IN OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIPS BUT NOT OUR LESSONS"***

Of course, not everyone agreed. About 13.6% of respondents said "no," and their reasoning was just as thoughtful. Some of the comments included:

- "God has a place in our collective worships but not our lessons."
- "He can't visit all schools—no one school is special."

These responses are great conversation starters. They highlight some of the questions and assumptions young people hold about God and His role in their lives, and there's so much we can explore with them on this topic.



**"GOD CAN BE ANYWHERE AS HE IS AS BIG AS THE WORLD. HE CREATED THE WORLD SO IS IN OUR HEARTS"**

I find these responses deeply encouraging. They show a willingness to engage with big questions about life and faith, and they reinforce the importance of the work that is being done. I'm also inspired by the honesty of the responses, both the "yes" and the "no." They show us where we're connecting well and where we can do more to spark meaningful conversations.

For future questions, we're looking to involve even more young people, particularly those aged 17-18, who we didn't hear much from this time. But for now, I just want to say thank you to every young person who shared their thoughts. Your voices are at the heart of this work, and I can't wait to hear more from you in the future.



## Appendix: Full Responses to "Does God Have a Place in School?"

Here are all the comments we received from children and young people in response to the question, feel free to use them however you think will best spark conversations or reflections.

### Age 6-11

Yes: "God lives in everyone's hearts"

Yes: "God can be anywhere as he is as big as the world. He created the world so is in our hearts"

Yes: "All around us in our values. he visits our school at anytime"

Yes: "god plays an important part in my life, i pray everyday and i think schools are very good at worshipping god."

Yes "I think God definitely does have a place in school but not physically. I mean that his spirit is always welcome in our school no matter what"

Yes "Yes but I think that it would be nice to have a special place to reflect and focus your thoughts"

Yes "I think God is with us in singing assembly"

Yes "Yes he does. Especially when we get to sing"

Yes "Yes I think God has a place everywhere. He is omnipotent but He focused on important parts of life"

Yes "Yes I think he does because he is always with us. But I don't think he is always paying attention to what we are doing"

Yes "God has a place in school. Sometimes it gets really noisy and it's hard for us to hear him. Can he still hear us?"

Yes "God has a place in our school. It might be good to have a special place to go and talk to God"

I want to say more "I think he only had a place in assembly because he doesn't really seem to have a place during lessons and break. I think we should have a place to reflect on God"

I want to say more "Sometimes because not in lessons but in lesson breaks and assembly"

No: "He can't visit all school - no one school is special"



No: "Not one place is special"

No: "Yes God does have a place in school. It's important we learn about lots of religions and find out what other people think about God. We learn about God in RE, collective worship and at Messy Church. It's important that we can worship in different ways."

No "God has a place in our collective worships but not our lessons"

### **Age 12-16**

Yes: "Yea cause if you are having a bad day in school or if you have a test ar exam you can ask God to help you"

Yes: "God has a place everywhere beside us" "God bless everyone"

No: "Modern day schools do not like to perform advocacy of religion. To prevent tension between relationa as in the uk there are variety of religions over 30 called some stranding from denominations eg Shia and Sunni Muslim"

No: We don't do religion massively in my philosophy lessons, and when we do, it is more about the people in that religion that the religious beliefs itself."

### **Age 17-18**

Yes: "I believe God has a place in all aspects of life. School makes up such a huge part of young people's lives that it is especially important to recognise God's place in it"

