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| **Exemplar for how to lead a prayer circle** |
| **Date:** |
| **Introduction:**  **Possible ways of creating a sacred space:**   * Child brings the candle on a tray to the circle. * Candle is lit. * School prayer or opening greeting is said. * Child places a piece of artwork in the centre of the circle. * Child places a quote or piece of scripture in the centre of the circle. * Children are invited to listen to a piece of music/scripture/poem to set the scene. |
| **Main input:**  **Possible ways in:**   * An item from the news is explored with the children. News round can be used to support this. * A local/national/global issue is explored. * Picture news might be a good resource to use as the input.   **Key questions raised from the current affair.**  Opportunity for talk partners and brief discussion.  Links made with the week’s theme/value/school vision where possible. |
| **Prayer:**  Thoughts are gathered for prayer and written on pieces of paper that are placed around the candle/focal point and can then be transferred into the class prayer book or onto a prayer wall if these things exist in the classroom.  **These may include:**   * Thoughts from the current affair explored. * Prayer requests from the children themselves. * Prayers children have written in the session. |
| **Silence/Reflection**  Children are asked to be silent as they reflect/remember/pray for the things that are on their hearts or been placed around the candle/focal point.  Some children may want to pray allowed and you may want to encourage this.  **Phrases into prayer:**  Thank you God for……  We pray for…  We remember the…..  **The silence ends with the teacher or a child concluding it with a set prayer/poem/words from scripture.** |
| **Closing the prayer circle:**  **Options for how to close the prayer circle:**   * Children say together the Lord’s Prayer/ Our Father, or * Children say together the Biblical text linked to the school vision. * Children respond to a call and response.   **Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.  **All:** Thanks be to God  **Leader:** Go into the world to love and serve.  **All:** Thanks be to God.  **Leader:** Shine in the world  **All:** so, all may see your love. Amen  **Leader:** Go in the peace of Christ.  **All:** Thanks be to God   * **Children say an agreed response:**   **Eg:** Go in the peace of Christ.  Be with us this day and always. Amen  May we be ready to love and serve you in all we do. Amen  Help us always to love one another just as you love us. Amen |