



## The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026 An act of collective worship for schools

### Week 1: Schools – the value of education

*This is one of five outlines for collective worship written to help schools and churches pray, offer love and hope and encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ in our own diocese and in our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and the Diocese of Jerusalem as well as the Middle East.*

**Bible passage:** Proverbs 4:5

**Song:**

*We will grow*  
[BBC Teach](#)

**Gather:**

School gives us many opportunities to learn new things, what have you enjoyed about your learning this year?

**Engage:**

How do you think the school helps us to grow? In what ways do we grow? As you walked into the collective worship today you listened to the words of the song, 'We will grow'. We are also going to sing this song during our collective worship today. Schools not only provide us with the foundation to learn new skills and knowledge, but also to develop a deeper understanding of the world around us and ourselves. Schools can nurture us and support us to flourish as individuals.

In school we learn to respect and value each other so that everyone can feel included. In

Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it", the Bible teaches about the importance of building a strong foundation in our lives. Education can guide us to think about the decisions that we make and how we might live out the Christian values of love, compassion, justice and forgiveness. At times, we might make the wrong choices and our teachers guide us to think about the impact our actions.

What do you think is the value of education? We can feel great joy in our learning and exploring new knowledge and skills. What you learn in school can ignite an interest in things that will remain with us for the rest of our lives. For instance, learning to read opens up a world of storytelling, knowledge and wisdom. This can inspire us, feed our imaginations, help us to ask important questions and can give us guidance at challenging times. Schools have the power to transform our lives, help us to become more confident learners and to grow as individuals. We may find learning new things challenging at times, yet school can support us to build our resilience and overcome difficulties.





Yet, there are millions of children around the world who do not have access to education. This could be because of war, poverty or discrimination. Some children are denied access to education because they have a disability. Organisations such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) work to provide opportunities for children to go to school and to provide education so that everyone can be included.

**Respond with a prayer:**

*Dear God,  
Thank you for the wonderful learning opportunities that we have available to us within our school.  
Thank you for the teachers and support staff who guide us and nurture us so that we can grow and flourish.  
We thank you for the joy that we experience in our learning.  
We pray that we find the strength to overcome challenges at times when we might find things difficult.  
We pray for those children and young people who don't have any access to education because of poverty, war and discrimination.  
We ask this in your son, Jesus Christ's name.  
Amen.*

**Sending out:**

How might you encourage others when they find learning something new challenging?

**A moment of reflection for schools:**

- Q:** What are your talents and gifts?
- Q:** What helps you to grow these talents and gifts?
- Q:** Sometimes we face barriers to our learning and challenges. Reflect on a time when you have found something difficult and how you overcame this.
- Q:** How have teachers and support staff in school helped you to overcome these challenges.

