



Staff Reflection: Pray for your school community this Christmas

- A nativity set with a random extra figure
- A cloth to set it out on

Slowly & deliberately set out your nativity scene on the cloth, whilst playing quiet, reflective music.

We are going to use some of the characters in our nativity scene to help us reflect and pray for our school.

Mary – Look at how Mary has been depicted, often meek and mild, but she must have been a strong woman to cope with the stigma of her pregnancy and the challenges that being the mother of Jesus during his ministry and his death.

Take some time to reflect and pray for the parents and carers of the children in your school.

Joseph – Look at how Joseph has been depicted. He is often a background figure, but he stuck with Mary even when it was uncomfortable for him. There must have been rumours about Mary's faithfulness and Jesus' parentage for the rest of his life.

Take some time to reflect on the staff in your school who champion the under-dog. The SENDCOs, the LSA's, or others who push for the support a child needs or decide to exclude or not exclude a child. Take some time to reflect and pray for them that their voices will be heard.

Shepherds – How many shepherds are in your set and how many sheep? The shepherds were outside doing hard manual work.

Take some time to pray for the caretakers, and site staff in your school.

Wise men – Look at how the wise men have been depicted. They probably have the best costumes in our school nativity plays! These men took great personal, and possibly professional, risks to leave their comfortable study and travel a considerable distance to worship the new born king.

Take some time to pray for people who lead in your school and are often presented with challenges. The emotional cost to them and their families can be considerable.

Random extra figure – As in all the best school nativity plays, we have included a random extra figure! While the second lobster may make us smile, perhaps they are important in our Christmas reflections. These are the unexpected characters, the people, parents, children, who are a bit

unusual who don't quite blend in to the conformity of school life. I expect we could each name at least one child who fits into this group!

Take some time to pray for the children or families who feel that they don't fit in.

Finally, spend some time looking at your nativity scene while you listen to some music, or you could watch one of these videos to aid your reflections.

He is the gift <https://youtu.be/jqzpEJuNIBk>

Is there room in your heart? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYHpJnfy2IQ>

Do you have room? <https://youtu.be/zjGCahjAUQk>