

Shine!

*Let my spirit shine today!
Hold my hand and guide my way!
Hug my heart, whisper in my ear.
Your love is eternal - you're always near!*



A brand-new day of reflection for children, developed by Paul Delaney:

- ☀ Former teacher at Our Lady's RC Primary School, Widnes, Cheshire
- ☀ Former Director of Music at St Paul's Catholic Church, West Derby, Liverpool.
- ☀ Director of music at St Luke's CE Church, Farnworth, Widnes, Cheshire
- ☀ Piano teacher at Saints Peter & Paul Catholic High School, Widnes, Cheshire.
- ☀ Children's performance poet and author (8 books already published)
- ☀ Professional church/cathedral organist, pianist and composer
- ☀ Writer in residence at schools all over the world, including international schools in the Bahamas, Berlin, Budapest, Los Angeles, London, Prague, and Rome.

THE IDEA...

How many times have I visited a school and there it is, sitting in the corner, covered in dust? The piano! And how many times has a teacher said to me, sadly, 'Well I've been here now for around 13 years, and I've never heard that piano played once? We just use CDs here...'. So that's what got me thinking...Why not combine all my skills? And develop a day of personal reflection for children? A day to remember! And a nurturing, fulfilling and spiritual day for not only children but STAFF too!

Here's what I envisage: A day of reflection for primary children, through words and music. A day exploring our unique spirits and our connection to the mystery we call GOD. A day to be enjoyed by staff too, looking at our uniqueness, writing poems and singing songs all about 'Diversity'. A day where we say THANK YOU to God, through poetry and music, singing BRAND NEW hymns and old favourites such as 'Shine, Jesus, shine' and 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' or Dan Schutte's classic, 'Here I am, Lord.' A day to be STILL and celebrate our gifts and perhaps recharge our batteries too!

Let your spirit SHINE and SOAR as we celebrate the uniqueness of our spirits through words and music! Of course, all this will link into the English and music curriculums. In addition, strands in whichever Religious Education and PSHE schemes of work are used at your school will be satisfied too. A great day for the whole school community to celebrate and remember, creating songs to perform and poetry-based work to display!

Attainment targets



ENGLISH:

Prepare poems and play scripts to read aloud and perform, showing understanding through intonation, volume and action. Recognising some different forms of poetry.

MUSIC:

KS1: Use voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.

KS2: Pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control.

PSHE:

Feelings

Can name different feelings.

Recognize that people may feel differently about the same situation.

Can identify how emotions look and feel in the body.

Recognise that some feelings can be stronger than others.

Describe ways of managing different feelings.

Special people

Identify people who are special to them and explain and understand what makes a good friend.

Can demonstrate how they can show somebody they care.

Can describe ways to sort out friendship problems.

Celebrating achievement

Explain how it feels to be challenged and try something new or difficult.

Can plan the steps required to help to achieve a goal or a challenge.

Children can celebrate their own and others' skills, strengths and attributes.

Children can describe how it feels when there are setbacks.

Know some positive ways to manage setbacks and how to ask for help and support

RE:

Talk about your own experiences and feelings.

Say what they wonder about and ask questions.

Ask and respond to questions about their own and others' feelings.

Make links to show how feelings affect people's behaviour.

Compare your own and others' ideas about questions that seem difficult to answer.

Show how beliefs are informed by beliefs and values.

Explain what beliefs and values inspire and influence them and others.

Demonstrate how religious beliefs and teaching give some explanation to the purpose and meaning of life.

RSHE:

Pupils know that mental well-being is a normal part of life, in the same way as physical health.

Pupils should know that there is a normal range of emotions, (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger) and scale of emotions that all humans experience about different experiences and situations.

Teach how to recognize and talk about emotions. Simple self-care techniques.

Know the importance of families for children because they can give love, security and stability.

That stable caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families.

How important friendships are in making us feel happy/secure and how people choose and make friends. Know the characteristics of friendships and the importance of respecting other people.

TYPICAL TIMETABLE FOR THE SHINE DAY...

This is flexible, of course! Every school is different and target areas for every class are too! For example, Y5 may be planning an assembly and therefore, your school can choose SONG instead of poetry for Y5.

Times on this timetable are approximate of course and only an example. Every school is different!

Time	Class	Theme	Activities
9.00 am	Reception 20 mins	PUPPETS	Meet Paul's puppets from around the world! Not only do they look and sound different but they like different things too! What do <i>you</i> like? Or not like? We are all different! BUT we are all, every one of us, a gift from God.
9.25 am	Year 1 30 mins	PUPPETS SONG 'Something to do!'	Learn Paul's action song, 'Something to do!' and develop this idea – I'm great at some things, but other things I find difficult! Can we be good at everything? Probably not! So let's celebrate our unique gifts from God! Selected children will perform, speaking about what they CAN do!
10.00 am	Year 2 40 mins	POETRY I am a tropical fish I don't like!	Diversity – Read Paul's diversity poems and recognize that God created us all DIFFERENT. YOU are unique. There is NOBODY quite like you! Read, model and write one of Paul's diversity poems, such as 'I don't like!' or 'I am a tropical fish' or 'An Alien spaceship' and discuss.
	BREAK		
11.00 am	Year 3 35 mins	SONG	Read Paul's new poem, 'There is only one me' and discuss how we are all different. Discuss how our spirits are invisible – they are that hidden part of us. Children write their own 'I am' poem after discussion and realize that we all come from God and we are loved and special.
11.40 am	Year 4 35 mins	POETRY	Sing one of Paul's NEW hymns, such as 'I will follow you!' and discuss the words – our spirits are unique and every one of us is a gift from God. However, when the going gets tough, recognize that GOD or Jesus or the Holy Spirit hold our hand – and we can communicate through prayer to the higher powers / the creator above.
Noon	LUNCH		
1 pm	Year 5 50 mins	POETRY / SONG	Read Paul's 'Thank you!' poem and in the silence, <i>give THANKS to the Lord, for he is good, for his love has no end.</i> (Psalm 136) The 'Law of gratitude' works – The more THANKS we give to God, the more things to be thankful for seem to appear... We end with Paul's 'We thank you, Lord!' hymn and use this as a poetry refrain.
2 pm	Year 6 One hour	POETRY / SONG	'Sometimes' – Paul's classic simile poem all about our feelings and 'My Espirit Unique' – we are all unique, with strengths and weaknesses. Sing Paul's new worship song, SHINE – recognize the strength of our own spirits.

A Sample ...

One of Paul's emotive poems – often used with KS2 children



Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like a punctured tyre, a piece of rubber, flat.
I feel like the clothes in a charity bag – someone else's tat!
I feel like I'm a naughty child – Have you just done that?
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like I'm a box of fireworks, lighting up the sky.
I feel like I'm an energy drink – those bubbles make me high.
I feel like I'm a burst of colour, Uncle Ronald's revolting tie!
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like I'm X-factor Sally. Will I ever reach those live shows?
I feel like I'm a reception child, losing her Jo-jo bows.
I feel like I'm a blushing bride, who's sick, with a blocked-up nose.
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like I'm a millionaire, a lucky lotto winner.
I feel like I'm a starving child, tucking into a roast dinner.
I feel like I'm a precious object, a solid gold fidget spinner.
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like I'm on holiday, with nothing much to do.
I feel like I'm on 'The Chase' but I haven't got a clue.
I feel like I'm a wild animal, all caged, and trapped in a zoo.
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

I feel like I'm a sports car and my driver's travelling too fast.
I feel like I'm a polar explorer, heading into an icy blast.
I feel like I'm an innocent fish, watching a fisherman cast.
Can you guess how I'm feeling?

For St Paul's Catholic Junior School, West Derby, Liverpool.
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Shine 2022 – A few testimonials

'Let my spirit SHINE...'

'Paul has combined his musical and literary talents to provide children with a day to 'shine'. The day compliments Religious Education, Spirituality, prayer, liturgy and Personal, Social and Emotional topics. We are delighted to have heard such positive feedback from Catholic Schools!'

(Julie Rourke, RE Advisor for Liverpool Archdiocese)

We were so lucky to welcome Paul Delaney into our school on Friday 7th January to work with all of our children from Nursery up to Year 6. In each class, they reflected on the importance of diversity and the uniqueness that we find in each person.

The younger children loved Paul's puppets, which he used to much laughter and enjoyment! The children in KS2 listened to poetry written by Paul that celebrated difference and how we should all let our spirits soar! We had planned on learning songs and singing in each class but the COVID guidance put pay to that at the last minute. We would highly recommend getting in touch with Paul to find out about the SHINE Day!

(St Ambrose RC Primary School, Speke, Liverpool)

'I think it is inspiring to others to never give up on their dreams and if someone says you will never be able to achieve something, just ignore them and if you believe in yourself, then you will be able to achieve anything. This is what Paul taught us!' (Y6 pupil)

'The children were thoroughly engaged in their workshop about differences. It was funny and fast-paced; the children learned how they are all different but SPECIAL to God.' (EYFS staff)

(St William's RC Primary School, Chorley, Lancashire)

'Paul told us that everyone is different, even twins!' Y3

'Paul is a talented piano player and an amazing author.

I liked it best when he played the Harry Potter theme tune.' Y3

'Paul was amazing and so funny.' Y2

'Paul taught us that it is ok to be different and respects each other's thoughts and feelings.' Y5

'I liked the orange puppet that pecked his head and his funny glasses!' Reception

Paul was most entertaining. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and were engaged throughout the visit. He got across some really important messages about how we are all unique and we should celebrate our differences. It was certainly a day of fun and reflection exploring our unique spirits. (Headteacher)

(XII Apostles RC Primary School, Leigh, Lancashire)

Thoughts from Reception...

Ada- I loved him because he was funny!

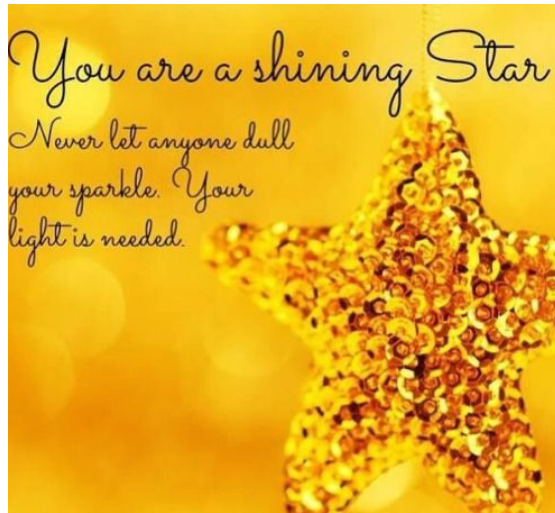
Amelie- I liked it because it was fun using our imagination.

Aaron- He was the best person because he's cool.

The children were enthralled by Paul's performance (Philippa Crosby, Reception teacher)

(St John Vianney RC Primary School, St Helens, Leigh)

To book your SHINE day, simply email Paul at paul@pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk



Shine, shine, shine!

*Shine, shine, shine like an everlasting star.
Shine, shine, shine, God has carved me on his hand.
Shine, shine, shine like a diamond in the sky!
God is always near – he's the footprints in the sand.*

My spirit is bright, like an everlasting flame.
Jesus says I'm special and he even knows my name.
He fills me with love and he cares for me.
He will hold my hand eternally.

My spirit is strong, like a golden eagle's wings.
God lifts me up and my soul begins to sing!
He fills me with strength, for the world to see.
He will hold my hand eternally.

My spirit is power, like a wondrous waterfall.
God lives within me and I hear his guiding call.
He fills me with fire and energy.
He will hold my hand eternally.

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Premiered at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School, Grappenhall, on Thursday 25th November 2021

