



Visitors leading worship – Some guidelines

When involving visitors in the leading of church school and academy worship, it may be helpful to suggest that they:

- Understand that collective worship is intended to provide an opportunity to worship God.
- Consider the various faith backgrounds of the school community.
- Understand that in church schools worship should be Christian but it must also be suitable for all to participate.
- Speak about their faith in terms that will help everyone know whose ideas are being shared e.g. 'Christians believe', 'The Bible says', 'In our church', 'Jesus taught'.
- Understand that some pupils and staff may have no religious background.
- Think about the following when preparing and delivering:
 - Think hard about the youngest children and ensure all resources/content are age-appropriate.
 - Make any visuals large.
 - Try to include something active e.g. hand movements or words to repeat.
 - Check songs carefully if you want to bring your own – would it be best for the pupils to sing or just listen?
 - Prepare questions carefully.
 - Move on swiftly and kindly when given an inappropriate response.
 - Remember time is limited!
- Should not
 - Use sexist or racist language.
 - Be too controversial.
 - Speak badly of other faiths.
 - Disparage education, school or staff.
 - Wind children up and leave them there!
- Ask beforehand if they require helpers.
- Introduce prayers or a quiet moment for reflection in a way which does not compromise pupils or staff but encourages everyone to take part. Think about how to end this time as well as start it.

