

## Visitors leading worship in secondary academies

### Some guidelines

When involving visitors in the leading of 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 academy community
- Understand that 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 students and staff may have no religious background
- Think about the following when preparing and delivering
  - There will be some students with special needs present
  - Make any visuals large
  - Try to include something active that will engage students
  - Check songs carefully if you want to bring your own – would it be best for the students 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 negatively of other faiths
  - Disparage education, academy or staff
  - Wind students 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 students or staff but encourages everyone to take part. Think about how to end this time as well as start it