

## **Guidance regarding Visits to schools by religious believers**

### **Code of conduct**

Religious visitors taking part in the life of a school should:

- be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights but avoid criticising the beliefs of others and imposing their views upon pupils in any way
- be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies and plan their involvement to complement the curriculum at the school
- use engaging teaching and learning methods that involve the pupils actively and communicate to the age group concerned
- make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent, and what their aims are
- be willing to respect and value the faith of the pupils and adults in the school when it is different from their own
- develop open communication with pupils and avoid any hidden agenda to 'convert' those with other faiths and beliefs

### **Considerations for visitors to schools**

If a member of another religion was delivering an alternative view to a child of your faith, consider if you'd be happy with the education given. Then carefully plan your input accordingly.

- Are the children having to listen for too long?
- Can the children understand what is being said?
- Have you taken into account the differing abilities of the children?
- Is the material too hard or too easy for the age group?
- Is the language pitched at the right level for the children?
- Have you carefully selected the content and avoided the temptation to do too much?
- Have you talked to the staff in advance?
- Will you be open to teacher ideas or evaluations?

### **The school's responsibilities to religious visitors**

- Visitors will be briefed in advance of any visit
- Visitors will be made to feel welcome
- The school will be happy to jointly plan and evaluate the visit

- During the visit the school will remain responsible for the curriculum and collective worship at all times
- The staff will work alongside the visitor and not merely observe
- Responsibility for pupils - including their protection, health and safety - rests with the school