

CHESHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Guidelines for using Drama or Role-Play In RE Lessons

Religious education involves learning 'about' religion (Encounter), and learning 'from' religion (Response) and it is therefore important that teachers enable pupils to engage with religions and beliefs in a way that is significant and meaningful for them. It is important that learning in RE is active: pupils should engage in activities which enable them to have first hand experiences of religions, faith and other world views through a variety of means. These would include, for example: games, simulations, drama and role-play (when appropriate), visits and inviting visitors to the classroom.

Advisable 'DOs' of using drama or role-play in RE

- **DO use drama and role-play wherever possible as an active tool for learning.**
- **DO ensure the activity meets the learning objectives.**
- **DO make pupils aware when they are enacting and taking part in a role-play, a good way to do this is to ensure the time is marked by a set sound or marker during the activity.**
- **DO explain that role-play is not an act of worship.**
- **DO take care to be sensitive to the religious backgrounds of all the pupils in the class and avoid offence. If in doubt consult with parents about the appropriateness of the drama or alternatively plan a different activity.**
- **DO use stories in role-play from all traditions but be aware of the sensitive areas listed below.**
- **DO use religious artefacts and clothing wisely. Dressing up in Christian ministerial robes may be considered fine by some but not others. Similarly some Jewish groups may be offended if pupils dressed in a tallit or kippah but others may not.**
- **DO consult with local faith leaders, where possible, if you are unsure about any activity.**
- **DO involve your senior school managers in observing your lesson with role-play.**

Advisable 'DON'Ts' of using role-play or drama in RE

- **DON'T represent the Jewish concept of God, Allah, and Muhammad, (pbuh) or a Sikh guru in any human form. Hot seating would be disrespectful. Narration can be used instead.**
- **DON'T use the 'actual' sacred texts as props in the drama or role-play from any tradition although stories found in them are generally considered by most as good source material for role-play.**
- **DON'T use religious artefacts in role-play as objects of worship.**
- **DON'T use drama or role-play where the activity might be misconstrued as an 'act of worship'. Please contact SACRE for further clarification, if required.**