

Welcome session - key stage 2

Welcome and introductions (3 minutes)

Welcome to The Salvation Army and to Ultimate Church Visit. *Briefly introduce yourself and your team and give any necessary information about the building, safety etc.*

First impressions (2 minutes)

If the visit is taking place in a SA hall, ask the children about their first impressions using the questions below.

- What is your first impression of this church?
- How is it the same or different to or the same as other places of worship that you have visited before?

The Salvation Army is... (5 minutes)

How many of you had heard of The Salvation Army before your visit today? I'd like to find out what you already know (or think you may know) about The Salvation Army.

Hold up the 'The Salvation Army is...' card. I'd like you to see if you could complete this sentence – 'The Salvation Army is...'. I'll give you one minute to discuss it in pairs before sharing your ideas with the class. Emphasise that there can be no wrong answers at this stage, as you are asking about their own ideas.

During the feedback really encourage pupils by acknowledging their answers with positive phrases such as 'good suggestion', 'interesting answer' or simply repeating what they have said. This should help pupils to feel more confident about contributing to discussions throughout the visit.

Thank you for sharing all of your ideas. So what *do* we know about The Salvation Army? *At this point clarify any strong misconceptions (eg we are a military army) and pick up on the correct answers they gave.* The Salvation Army is actually a Christian church and a charity.

Aims (choose/adapt/add as necessary)

Today you're going to be exploring...

- what worship is like in The Salvation Army
- about how members of The Salvation Army put their faith in action
- how The Salvation Army started

How the visit will work (2 minutes)

This is how the visit will work. In your groups you're going to visit ___ zones which are set up around the church/hall. Every zone has a leader. In each zone you will learn something different about The Salvation Army. *Point out the different zones, especially if any are in different rooms, and explain which direction the pupils should travel.* At the end of the morning/afternoon/day, we'll come back here for a 'think tank' session and you will be asked to say at least one new thing you have learnt and what the visit has made you think about.

Getting ready (3 minutes)

Pupils can now get into their groups, and pupil books can be given out by zone leaders/helpers before they set off to their first zone. Make sure pupils write their name on their pupil book!

think tank

Once all the pupils have visited the zones, they come back together for a final plenary session – the think tank.

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed travelling around the zones. Have you had a good morning/afternoon/day? I'm going to give you a few minutes to fill in the Think Tank page in the back of your pupil booklet and write down the new things you have learnt about The Salvation Army, what the visit has made you think about and what you have enjoyed.

Support any pupils who need help writing their thoughts down, or remembering what they have learnt – they may be a little overwhelmed with information! After a few minutes, invite pupils to share their answers with the class – first what they learnt, then what the visit made them think about, or what they enjoyed. Encourage pupils to try to give different answers to the others, if possible. You could refer back to the initial ideas they had about The Salvation Army in the welcome session and see whether any of these have changed.

Thank pupils and teachers for engaging in the activities and for being so enthusiastic to learn about The Salvation Army and for working very sensibly. Hand out copies of 'Kids Alive!', information leaflets etc and make sure pupils take everything with them!