

Uniform zone - key stage 1

Welcome pupils to the zone and remind them of your name.

Aims:

In this zone we are going to:

- explore why members of The Salvation Army wear uniform
- look at how The Salvation Army's uniform has changed since Victorian times

Introduction: What is a uniform for? (5 minutes)

To begin we're going to look at some different uniforms which people wear. *Sit the children in a circle and scatter the pictures showing people in different kinds of uniforms (police, fire fighter etc) in the middle of the circle. Pupils take it in turns to choose a card and say a) what job the person does/group the person belongs to and b) why they think this person needs to wear a uniform, until all the pictures have been discussed.* How do you feel when you wear your school uniform?

Salvation Army uniform (5 minutes)

Now show the picture of a person in Salvation Army uniform. Why do you think many members of The Salvation Army wear a uniform? After hearing their ideas, tell the following short story:

'A bomb had gone off in the centre of town. The police had cordoned off the whole area. Members of The Salvation Army arrived to find that no one was allowed inside, but when the policeman on duty saw them he said, "Oh, come in, you're very welcome. People need your help." The Salvation Army could comfort people who were hurt and give out hot drinks to the police and fire fighters.'

- How did the policeman know they were from The Salvation Army?

It can be very important to wear a uniform to show who you are and what group or religion you belong to.

Do other churches and religions have special clothes which show that they belong to their religion? *Allow time for pupils to share their answers, either from personal experience, or recalling what they have seen or learnt before.* Many religions show who they are and what they believe through what they wear.

Dressing up (10 minutes)

Now it's time to get dressed up! *Help pupils to try on one of the uniforms (include as many as you can from the vintage and modern-day uniforms you have).*

Question pupils using some or all of the following questions:

- How do you feel wearing that uniform?
- Is your uniform very smart and formal or relaxed?
- Which one do you think is a uniform don't we wear any more? This is the kind of uniform which was worn when The Salvation Army first started. *Point to the bonnet and explain that a long time ago lots of people were against The Salvation Army and would throw rocks and dangerous things as members marched down the street, so they needed something to protect their heads.*
- What kind of uniform do you think is worn by a Salvation Army minister today when he is leading a church service?
- What kind of uniform might be worn to help in an emergency?
- What kind of uniform do you think children or young people wear? *Explain that there are different uniforms for different activities and occasions and different uniforms for children and adults.*
- Which uniform would you like to wear if you were a member of The Salvation Army?

Art & design activity (10+ minutes)

Choose from the following activities:

- *Design a new Salvation Army uniform for the future (pupil book/activity sheet)*
- *Make a Victorian bonnet or cap (see instruction sheets)*

extra activities

Uniform timeline (3-5 minutes)

When The Salvation Army first began in 1878, more than 150 years ago, its members decided they wanted to wear a uniform so people would know they were members of The Salvation Army. The uniform has changed a bit since 1878! I have five pictures of different Salvation Army uniforms and I want you to put them in order, going from the oldest uniform to the newest or most recent uniform. *Pupils can complete this task as a whole group, or it could be done in two or more groups as a race (order extra sets of cards). This activity would work well before the dressing up activity.*

