

CHURCH PARADE SERVICE PLANNING CHECK LIST

Prior to planning, ask the children and young people (either directly or through the leaders) what topic the service should be on, what they care about. Perhaps each uniform group could take the lead in preparing or leading a section such as prayers or the Bible reading.

Element	Considerations	Notes
Preparation before	<p><i>Plan before the service:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you link to the badges they are working on. • If possible ask those who have been before what they like and how they feel a service could run differently. • Think how you can involve children and young people in prayers and readings. • Consider complex family arrangements, conflicting sports or events, differing worship practices, or perceptions of indoctrination 	
Parade to arrive	<p><i>Consider the layout and space for flag bearing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceremonial carrying of flags or colours during hymns. • If possible rehearse prior 	
Call to worship	<p><i>Consider the introduction and welcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the uniformed groups by their name • Use a call and response • Actions to the call to worship 	
Activities to introduce and engage	<p><i>Consider how to involve children and young people into the exploration of the theme:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Drama • Visual aids 	
Songs	<p><i>Consider which songs to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs that have a catchy chorus • Action songs • Songs that are not too long • Could they be ones from YouTube that feature children singing 	

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Bible	<p><i>Consider how the scriptures will be read and explored:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Into parts 	
Prayers	<p><i>Consider how prayers are done:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain what prayer is • Explain that people only need to join with prayer if they feel comfortable to do so • Use everyday language • Can they be Interactive • Be mindful of the length • Explain what Amen means 	
Blessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bless the uniformed groups by their name • Actions to the blessing • Grace with actions 	
Parade to end	<p><i>Consider the layout and space for flag bearing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceremonial carrying of flags or colours during hymns. • If possible rehearse prior 	
Sensory, additional needs, accessibility	<p><i>Consider needs of those on the margins.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected images • Use of music / projected lyrics • Use space well • Provide fidget toys • Provide noise cancelling headphones • Use visual cues and symbols 	