**Year 5 States Chamber Visit - Frequently Asked Questions**

**Is it OK to take photographs/video in the States Chamber?**

*Parents/carers are not permitted to take photographs or videos. Schools are permitted to take their own photographs or videos, however, you will want to avoid being too intrusive during the debate.*

**Where do teachers sit during the debate?**

*Teachers are welcome to sit in unoccupied seats in the Chamber during the debate and the introductory session. However, they are requested* ***not to vote*** *during the debate itself as this appears as a rogue, unidentified vote on the class voting record.*

**What sort of debating topics have been most successful with previous Year Five pupils?**

*Schools have taken different approaches: some have chosen subjects relevant within the school (e.g. homework time, school uniform, etc) while others have looked at topical issues (often related to study elsewhere in the curriculum). What is important is that the topic should naturally produce a divergence of opinion. The* ***least*** *successful debates have been those in which there has been a token view expressed on one side and virtually all the remaining pupils have supported/opposed the proposition.*

**How many teachers or adults should we bring?**

*It is important to bring a minimum of two adults to ensure that the children are properly organised during the visit; there is no restriction on the number who may attend.*

**Can parents/carers attend the meeting?**

*Parents/carers are warmly welcome to attend and sit in the Public Gallery.* ***Any parents/carers wishing to attend will be required to inform the school of their details in advance.***  *The States Greffe will require the school to provide a list of parents/carers wishing to attend – for safeguarding reasons, any person not on the list will not be granted entry.*

*The public entrance to the States Chamber is not open for school visits. Parents/carers are required to assemble in the* ***Information Centre, Ground Floor, Morier House*** *which is opposite the public entrance to the States in Halkett Place. Parents/carers should assemble here* ***one hour after the school’s session has started.***

*For the duration of the visit, photographs and videos are not permitted and all mobile phones should be switched off throughout.*

**What happens if the usual class teacher is not ultimately able to prepare for/take part in the visit?**

*On occasions, the usual class teacher may not be the person who finally prepares the children for the visit or takes part. If your school has not had the benefit of the initial introductory session or if, for whatever reason, you are not confident about the visit, please contact the States Greffe as far ahead of the visit as possible.*

**What happens if the details which I have sent in (Resources 3 and 5) change?**

*Sometimes a pupil who was scheduled to play a named part in the debate is unable to take part and is replaced by another child, or a debate topic changes. It is helpful to notify the States Greffe of this so that they can ensure that the printed paperwork bears the correct details. If there are errors in the paperwork, corrected replacements will be sent to schools with the audio recording and Minutes after the visit.*

**How can I obtain more information or help in advance of the visit? Or if children have questions after the visit?**

*You can e-mail/phone the Digital & Public Education Team on:* [*getinvolved@gov.je*](mailto:getinvolved@gov.je) *or telephone 441109 if you need assistance or have any queries in advance of the meeting. If you want to find out more about the workings and history of the States, the States Greffe website is an excellent resource.* [*www.statesassembly.je*](http://www.statesassembly.je)