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To: Members of the

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Councillors: To be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting on 18th May 2011

Church of England: Reverend M Camp, Ms J Thompson, Mr C Town and

Reverend S Varney

Teachers: Mrs F Hawkes, Ms E Honey, Mrs H James, Mr J Stone and

Mrs J Tranchina

Other Faiths: Mrs P Colling, Mr S Gupta, Mr R Hagley, Mr S Mahmood,

Mr S Riat and Mr M Sweet

Co-optee: Mrs S Polydorou

A meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education will be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2011 AT 6.30 PM**

MARK BOWEN
Director of Resources

Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from www.bromley.gov.uk/meetings

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 3 A) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2011
 - **B) MATTERS ARISING**
- 4 ORAL UPDATE AND PUBLICATIONS
 - a) NASACRE AGM
 - b) London SACRE
 - c) Islamic Competition 2011
 - d) Churches Networking Event
 - e) School Visits

- **5 SACRE SELF EVALUATION**
- 6 SACRE AGREED SYLLABUS
- 7 YOUTH SACRE/ANNUAL EVENT 2011
- 8 SACRE FAITH DIRECTORY FOR SCHOOLS
- 9 CELEBRATING RE
- 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 11 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 19th October 2011 Wednesday 1st February 2012 Wednesday 30th May 2012 (All meetings to start at 6.30pm)

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30 pm on 16 February 2011

Present:

Councillor Mrs Anne Manning, Vice-Chairman (in the Chair)
Councillor Roger Charsley (until 7pm)
Councillor MacMull, Reverend Camp,
Mrs Hawkes, Ms Honey, Mr Hagley,
Mr Mahmood, Mrs Polydorou, Mr Riat,
Ms Tranchina, Ms Thompson,
Mr C Town and Reverend S Varney

Also Present:

Ms Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser Arlene Fane, Teacher, Observing the meeting Christine Reeks, Clerk to SACRE

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Sweet (Chairman), and Councillor Mrs Manning Chaired the meeting on his behalf. Apologies were also received from Councillor McBride, Mrs Michaelis, Mr Stone and Dr George Searle. Councillor Charsley left the meeting at 7pm to attend another meeting. The Chairman welcomed Arlene Fane, Teacher from St George's CE School, who was attending the meeting as an observer. She is also a Churchwarden at St Mary's Church, Bromley.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 A) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20th October 2010 be confirmed.

B) MATTERS ARISING:

There was no discussion on matters arising.

4 ORAL UPDATE AND PUBLICATIONS

(The item on Youth SACRE was considered first)

a) SACRE Annual Event

The SACRE annual event was held at the Education Development Centre on 24th November 2010. The event which looked at Philosophy for children was led by Jed Stone (a teacher at Bullers Wood School and a Member of SACRE). The RE Adviser informed SACRE Members that the event had been successful and had given a good insight into the subject. Mr. Mahmood commented that whilst he considered the event had been excellent he had found the environment noisy and distracting when group discussion had taken place. He suggested that in future perhaps screens could be used to help alleviate this. The RE Adviser said that this suggestion would be borne in mind for future events. The Chairman commented that she had found the event interesting and it had encouraged lateral thinking. She remarked in particular on the contribution made by the children from Pickhurst School who were very confident, and asked that Jed Stone be thanked on behalf of SACRE for leading the event.

b) Islamic Competition

The Islamic Competition had taken place at Darul Uloom on 4th November 2010. Mr Mahmood said that the quality of projects had been very good, and as usual the event had been most enjoyable and appreciated by all. Fiona Hawkes who attended the event commented that it had been good for the children to receive feedback on their projects. The RE Adviser said that it had been a very interesting evening and the hospitality at the event had been excellent. Details of the next Islamic Competition on 24th November 2011 were circulated to SACRE Members.

c) SACRE Annual Report 2009/10

It was reported that this had been sent to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and had also been circulated to schools. The Chairman was surprised to note that St Olaves School did not enter pupils for the full GCSE Course in Religious Studies and only entered them for the short course. Jan Thompson, Diocesan Adviser commented that the short course was undertaken by St Olaves pupils whilst they were in years 9 and 10.

The Chairman thanked the RE Adviser for her hard work in producing the annual report.

d) Youth SACRE

The Chairman welcomed two members of Bromley Youth SACRE to the meeting. The young men who attended Coopers Technology College showed a film which they had helped to produce following a visit to the synagogue in

Highland Road, Bromley. The film showed a "virtual tour" of the synagogue and included an interview with Rabbi Tony Hammond. The film had been produced by the Coopers Humanities Department working with Bromley Youth SACRE. The RE Adviser informed the meeting that the purpose of the film was for it to be used as a learning resource by schools, and it would be put on the Managed Learning Environment 'Fronter'. She thanked the boys for their work in helping to produce the film and also extended thanks to Fiona Hawkes (a teacher at Coopers Technology College and a Member of SACRE), for the huge support she had given to the Youth SACRE.

The Chairman thanked the members of Youth SACRE for attending the meeting. Members of SACRE found the film very interesting and agreed that it would be a useful learning resource for other pupils. They noted that a similar exercise would be carried out at Bromley Parish Church.

e) Holocaust Memorial Day

This event had been organised by Mandy King (Pupil Support Service) and had taken place at Ravensbourne School. Two holocaust survivors had spoken at the event and the local synagogue had also been involved. The event had been well attended by pupils from both primary and secondary schools. Emma Honey suggested that schools could be encouraged to undertake a holocaust memorial lesson themselves and there was a short free video available which they could use. The RE Adviser said that Primary schools had been encouraged to mark the 27th January in their collective worship and some RE co-ordinators had done this. Reverend Varney commented on the importance of such events but was unaware that it had taken place. The Chairman asked the RE Adviser to contact Mandy King to find out the date for the Holocaust event in 2012 and notify SACRE Members of this at their meeting in the Autumn Term.

f) RE in Secondary Schools

The RE Adviser informed Members that a response had been received from the Department for Education relating to the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. The DFE had stated that RE is not included as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate, because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

A letter received by Cornwall SACRE from Michael Gove, Education Minister, made it clear that Religious Education is still a statutory subject to be taught from a locally agreed syllabus in all schools to all registered pupils and, as such is not part of the National Curriculum review. The RE Adviser also referred to a recent statement of the government's position as recorded in the Parliamentary record, Hansard.

The RE Adviser commented that there appeared to be some confusion nationally, as some schools did not appear to be clear about the statutory

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requirement for RE to be taught in schools and were no longer teaching RE. Emma Honey suggested that it would be helpful for secondary schools to be reminded that the teaching of RE is a statutory requirement.

General discussion on the subject took place and the Diocesan Adviser suggested that Bromley SACRE write to the Government to ask what they are doing to enforce the law on teaching RE in schools. She suggested that the RE Adviser draft a letter to the Minister of Education for the Chairman to sign on behalf of Bromley SACRE.

The Chairman suggested that it would be helpful to know how academies and free schools will work with SACRE, and she would contact George Searle to seek clarification.

g) Science and Religion Seminar

On 3rd February 2011, The Company of Educators held a seminar on Science and Religion and it was understood that Mr Gupta had planned to attend. As Mr Gupta was unable to attend the SACRE meeting and give some feedback on the seminar, the Chairman requested that he be asked to provide comments for the next SACRE meeting.

5 DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011 AND BUDGET

Report No. DCYP11027

Members considered the draft development plan which had been drawn up with due consideration to the statutory duties of SACRE which are to:

- require the LA to review the locally agreed syllabus at least every five years;
- produce an annual report, to be distributed to schools and interested parties, to NASACRE and as directed by education department;
- advise on matters relating to teaching methods, the choice of teaching material and the provision of training for teachers in RE and collective worship.

A few minor typographical errors were pointed out in the development plan and details were passed to the SACRE clerk for amendment.

Members noted the following comments on the SACRE budget which had been submitted by Dr George Searle:

In the light of the rapidly worsening financial position of Councils and the proposed changes to National Curriculum, examinations and requirements on SACRE within the Education Bill 2011 introduced to Parliament, the following proposals for the SACRE budget have been made:

- (i) For the financial year 2011/12 leave unchanged at 2010/11 level the budget for support of the SACRE.
- (ii) Undertake a review of support to the SACRE (with the aim of reducing or containing future funding for support) during Summer/Autumn 2011.
- (iii) New budget proposals for forthcoming year(s) (2012/13 2015/16) to be presented at the SACRE meeting in February 2012.

Members were unaware of proposed changes in the Education Bill relating to the requirements on SACREs and asked for further clarification. The RE Adviser and Diocesan Adviser commented that there were no proposed changes to the requirements on SACRE in the Education Bill. SACRE Members wished to know who would be involved with the proposed review of funding for support to SACRE, and if SACRE would be involved with the review. The Chairman agreed to contact George Searle to seek further clarification on these matters.

Jan Thompson, Diocesan Adviser, informed the meeting that it had been necessary for the Religious Education Centre located at Bishop Justus School to vacate the premises, as the school had reached capacity and run out of space. The RE Centre had been established ten years ago to support RE and collective worship. Originally a joint Bromley/Diocesan project it moved out of the Education Development Centre after six years to be accommodated at Bishop Justus School. Throughout all this time it had been opened on Wednesdays to offer advice, resources and in-service training. The Diocesan Adviser was there most Wednesdays but it also relied heavily on voluntary help. Consultation had taken place with the local authority and with SACRE through its Chair and RE Adviser, but alternative suitable premises were unable to be found. In the circumstances the RE resources had been distributed as follows:

- The RE Resource Boxes had been shared between the EDC and Bennett Memorial Diocesan School in Tunbridge Wells
- Collective Worship Books had been taken by Spinnaker trust on behalf of Bromley SACRE, to support assemblies in Bromley community schools
- RE Books Primary books had been taken to Bennett Memorial Diocesan School in Tunbridge Wells. Secondary books had been retained at Bishop Justus School
- Early Years Resources had been taken to St George's CE Primary School in Wrotham
- Bromley SACRE materials were being looked after by the RE Adviser.

SACRE Members were disappointed to note that alternative premises for the RE Centre had not been found. The Diocesan Adviser further commented that the RE Centre was originally a joint Bromley/Diocesan project with the Diocese providing the manpower and LB Bromley providing the accommodation. When the RE Centre moved to Bishop Justus School the Local Authority made an agreement with the Diocese to pay for services and office support, as the LA had benefited by gaining use of the room at the EDC. However, the Diocesan Adviser understood that the payments had not been made and the Local Authority had now said that there were no funds available. Members expressed concern about the loss of the RE Centre and requested that the Chairman contact George Searle to ask about the future of an RE Centre for the Borough, and to clarify the position regarding the Local Authority agreement with the Diocese.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Members note the achievements of the development plan for 2010;
- (ii) Members adopt the draft development plan for 2011;
- (iii) The Chairman to seek further clarification as detailed above, regarding the Education Bill 2011, the proposed review of SACRE support and the agreement between the Local Authority and the Diocese relating to the RE Centre.

6 SACRE MEMBERS' TRAINING

Report No. DCYP11028

In view of time constraints it was agreed that the SACRE training session should be deferred until the next meeting. At that meeting the results of the first training session (held at the SACRE meeting on 20th October 2010) would be discussed. This training activity had considered, "What should a good SACRE be doing?" and it would be useful to link this to the SACRE self-evaluation due to be considered in the Summer term.

RESOLVED that the training session be deferred until the next SACRE meeting.

7 CELEBRATING RE MONTH

Report No. DCYP11029

In order to celebrate the importance of religious education in schools there would be a national month of celebration in March 2011. It was noted that the following events were scheduled to take place:

9th March 2011 at 1pm - Bishop Justus School

An event would be held on the theme of Easter. Further details would be circulated to SACRE Members when available.

10th March 2011 at 5.30pm – Bromley SACRE Members had been invited to attend an additional special meeting of Greenwich SACRE to be held at The Heritage Centre, Woolwich Arsenal, where an exhibition on "The Jewish Way of Life" was taking place. Details of the event were circulated at the meeting.

25th March 2011 – Royston Primary School, Penge

An event would be held after school to celebrate the end of their RE week.

31st March 2011 at 10am – NASACRE Conference (Free)

The conference, entitled "Whose RE is it anyway?" would be held at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. The Diocesan Adviser commented that many good speakers on RE would be attending. Details of the event had previously been circulated to SACRE members.

1st April 2011 at 1.30pm – St George's CE Primary School, Bickley An event would be held to celebrate the end of their RE week.

Bromley SACRE had not planned to lead any activity during Celebrating RE month but the RE Adviser suggested that members visit the Celebrating RE website (www.celebratingre.org) to look at the events taking place all over the country. The Chairman encouraged Members to attend an event if possible.

RESOLVED that the RE Adviser email SACRE Members details of local events taking place during Celebrating Religious Education Month.

8 SACRE FAITH DIRECTORY FOR SCHOOLS

Report no. DCYP11030

The RE Adviser reported that the work on the faith directory for schools was still continuing, and considered that volunteers from faith groups who had offered to talk in schools should meet for a short 'training' event. This would outline the legal requirements for RE teaching and strategies for use in the classroom. It was proposed that the training session should last for approximately an hour and a half and take place one evening. The RE Adviser would contact the SACRE clerk to see if a room was available at the Civic centre and would contact people who had previously put their names forward, as soon as a date had been arranged.

SACRE Members were asked to let the RE Adviser know of any suitable people in their faith groups who would be interested in volunteering to speak in schools. Councillor MacMull thought that Russell Chadwick the Town Centre Chaplain might be interested and suggested that he be contacted. As soon as the training had taken place, a list of speakers would be put on the SACRE page on the Managed Learning Environment for Bromley Schools. The list of speakers would also be held by the RE Adviser for those schools who had not bought in to the MLE. Fiona Hawkes commented that those people volunteering to speak in schools should provide details of their date of birth so that they could be checked against "List 99". The RE Adviser said she would ensure that this was done.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) SACRE Members let the RE Adviser know of anyone interested in joining the SACRE Faith Directory;
- (ii) The RE Adviser make arrangements for the necessary training to take place.

9 SCHOOL VISITS

Report no. DCYP11031

The RE Adviser reported on a successful visit to Kemnal Technology College during the Autumn Term 2010. SACRE had been invited by Ms Emma Honey, Head of the RE Department and the visit was made by the RE Adviser and Jan Thompson, Diocesan Adviser. The RE Adviser commented on the excellent and enjoyable visit which had taken place.

Members of Bromley SACRE had historically visited two schools per term in order to enable members to experience RE and collective worship in schools. Increasingly these visits had been undertaken by the RE Adviser alone or with one other Member. A discussion took place on the value of SACRE visits to schools and whether these should continue. It was agreed that these visits were of value to both SACRE and the schools, and that they should continue. However, it was difficult for some SACRE Members to attend visits due to their work commitments. Visits usually took place on a Wednesday but this was a difficult day for some Members. It was suggested that visits could also be arranged to take place on Tuesdays. The RE Adviser agreed to try and arrange two visits for the Summer Term. She would notify SACRE Members of the dates as far in advance as possible to see if they would be able to accompany her on the visits.

RESOLVED that the reports of the school visit be noted, and arrangements be made for visits to take place during the Summer Term.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25th May 2011 Wednesday 19th October 2011 Wednesday 1st February 2012 Wednesday 30th May 2012

All meetings to start at 6.30pm

The Meeting ended at 8.35 pm

Chairman

Report No. DCYP11068

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 25 May 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SACRE SELF-EVALUATION

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 It is good practice to do a self-evaluation exercise of SACRE's work on an annual basis. The results are then linked into the development plan so the work of the committee can be as effective as possible.
- 1.2 In past years this evaluation has been done in a variety of different ways. The chair has suggested that this year the consultant looks at the document and evaluates the work, and suggests areas to be considered. Two areas that are still developing according to the last review are: 2B membership and training and 2F partnership with key stakeholders.
- 1.3 The committee has completed one training exercise entitled 'what should a good SACRE be doing?' from the NASACRE training CD. The results of this were included in the last set of minutes. One area that members felt important was to listen to teachers and invite them to talk about good practice in the classroom.
- 1.4 It is proposed to continue the training at this meeting with a film of a good practice RE and to suggest inviting teachers to speak at the October meeting. This will contribute to both developing items, 2B and 2F.
- 1.5 Discussion on section 5D links to the LA initiatives promoting social and racial harmony at a future meeting is also advised.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members to agree to this way of fulfilling the self evaluation requirements.
- 2.2 Members to suggest teachers that have shown good practice

Background Documents:	SACRE Self-Evaluation Form
(Access via Contact Officer)	

Report No. **DCYP11069**

London Borough of Bromley

No.

Agenda Item

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 25 May 2011

Non-Executive Non-Key Decision Type: Non-Urgent

SACRE AGREED SYLLABUS TITLE:

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Bromley Agreed Syllabus is due for a 5 year review during the next academic year. The RE consultant has been to a number of meetings, run by QCDA, discussing syllabus review with 52 other local authorities.
- 1.2 The chair has suggested that, prior to gathering an Agreed Syllabus conference in 2012, a working group is formed to meet to discuss the process of the forthcoming review.
- 1.3 The working party would look at the comments of RE co-ordinators from the Primary network meetings and the suggestions from the QCDA conferences.
- 1.4 Members of the committee and interested teachers would form the working party with the Chair and the RE consultant.

RECOMMENDATION(S) 2.

Members to consider this proposal and if in agreement consider whether they would like to join the working party.

Background Documents:	Bromley Agreed Syllabus
(Access via Contact Officer)	

Report No. DCYP11072

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda Item **7**

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: **25 May 2011**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: YOUTH SACRE / ANNUAL EVENT 2011

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 Bromley Youth SACRE met at the end of the Spring term and had a showing of the film of the Synagogue which is now on the SACRE website. They will be meeting in June to plan the next filming session which will be in the Parish Church on 29 June. The film will hopefully be ready to be shown at the Autumn term's meeting
- 1.2 One possibility for the annual event for Bromley SACRE is to hold another 6th form conference using the model from 2009 and also invite Key Stage 4 pupils to attend. The members of the Youth SACRE will all be leaving school at the end of July 2011 and a conference would encourage new members.
- 1.3 The last conference was sponsored by a grant from NASACRE. We have all the materials and presentations so the only constraint would be the venue. It may be possible to have the conference hosted by one of the schools this time.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members to make a decision on the Bromley SACRE annual event.

Background Documents:	Nil
(Access via Contact Officer)	

Report No. DCYP11071

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: **25 May 2011**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: SACRE FAITH DIRECTORY FOR SCHOOLS

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

At the February meeting it was agreed that the volunteers from faith groups who have offered to talk in schools should meet for a short 'training' event which would outline the legal requirements for RE teaching and strategies for use in the class room. Volunteers attending the training would then be put on a list for schools to access. The list would be available on the Managed Learning Environment (MLE) SACRE page for Bromley schools and held by the Adviser for those schools who have not bought into the MLE.

The date for the training is 14 June 2011 from 7-9 pm at the Civic Centre.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members to inform colleagues who would like to volunteer to speak about their faith in schools of the date of the training and encourage them to contact the RE consultant to secure a place on the training.

Members to note the date and attend the training event if they wish.

Background Documents: Nil (Access via Contact Officer)

Report No. DCYP11070

London Borough of Bromley

Agenda Item No.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Date: 25 May 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: CELEBRATING RE

Contact Officer: Penny Smith-Orr, RE Adviser

Tel: 020 8653 8606 Email: penny.smith-orr@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 March 2011 was designated as national Celebrating RE month.
- 1.2 Members were informed of the events being held in Bromley schools and as a result there were no official SACRE school visits in the Spring Term.
- 1.3 A legacy of the month is the website www.celebratingre.org which members may like to look at. This would give members an idea of good practice taking place across the country and would link to item number 5 of this term's agenda.
- 1.4 Attached is a report on the events that the RE Consultant attended.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members to read the report ready to discuss any events that they attended.

Background Documents:	Nil
Background Documents:	INII
(Access via Contact Officer)	

CELEBRATING RE MONTH MARCH 2011

The first event that I was invited to attend was on 7th March at Royston Primary school in Penge. This was a whole school collective worship organised by the RE coordinator. The pupils from each year group took turns to show the whole school what they had been recently learning about in RE. This was a very joyous occasion and the range of learning throughout the school was impressive. Some classes had been looking at various aspects of the Easter story while pupils in Key Stage 2 had been looking at aspects of other faiths. Some pupils had artefacts that they had been making or looking at to show and some described their thoughts and their learning. After this I had a quick tour of the school and a discussion with the RE coordinator. She had taken the 'wise sayings' from the website and displayed them along all the corridors at pupil friendly height. She had also planned some other events for the month which culminated in a multi faith multi culture party on the 25th.

Two days later I attended and event hosted by Bishop Justus school and including all the church Primary schools. This event started with refreshments and talking to the teachers, head teachers, governors and helpers who had come to be part of the celebrations. We then saw a series of interactive displays which the schools had prepared on the theme of the Easter story. Each school had prepared a display and a 'stall' and visitors were invited to write a prayer, look at a mime, consider the joy and sadness of the Easter season and much more. This was excellent and the pupils who had come from each school were very good at informing us what their aspect of Easter was all about. We then went and watched a debate on a number of questions posed by the head of RE at Bishop Justus. Each table of pupils had a statement to discuss, for instance 'only Christians should celebrate Easter' 'all Easter egg packets should tell the Easter story'. After discussions one member from each table had to tell the assembled company their conclusions which were thought provoking and interesting.

At the end of the month I attended another Collective worship, this time at St George's Primary School in Bickley. This started with a tour of the school accompanied by a Y6 pupil who told me all the RE activities that pupils had been taking part in during that week. The collective worship was very lively with pupils showing each other what they had been doing. The reception class sang a song and in the middle of the event the whole school joined in a hymn. Even the pupils from an after school club came up and showed their enjoyment of the RE they had been learning. The Y6 pupils who had been at the Bishop Justus event also received certificates for their hard work.

I would like to record thanks to all these teachers and all those in other schools who made an effort to celebrate RE and to highlight the subject in their school during the National month of celebration.